

NO.  
47

# ZIP

## COMICS

SUMMER  
10¢

AN  
**MLJ**  
MAGAZINE

BIJOU THEATRE  
"CROOKS CAN'T WIN"

STEEL  
STERLING

*Starring*  
and

RED  
RUBE







WEB COMIC  
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# IT'S EASY TO BE TOUGH... IF YOU KNOW

# AMERICAN JUDO

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# STEEL STERLING

MAN OF STEEL

IN  
THE STRANGE  
CASE OF THE  
**TIMID  
CORPSE**



BY CLETT  
& PER



STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN ON ANY  
POLICEMAN'S BEAT, AND CLANCY IS NO EXCEPTION!



MRS. ADAMS--  
LOOK OUT--!

OHHHH!



**MOAN!**

THE MADAM IS STUNNED!  
I COULD SLIP THAT  
KOHNOOR DIAMOND  
OFF HER NECK! I'VE  
HAD MY EYE ON IT  
SOME TIME!



BUT CLANCY ARRIVES!

DON'T STAND  
THERE LIKE A  
DUMMY, MAN!  
HELP ME CARRY HER!



CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS, AND...

MY ANKLE--OHHH!  
IT FEELS  
BROKEN!



I'M GOING TO FAINT  
AGAIN--OHHH! BUT  
GUARD THIS DIAMOND,  
OFFICER! IT'S  
THE KOH-  
NOOR --  
WORTH  
\$50,000!  
PLEASE  
WATCH  
IT!



AND LURKING AROUND THE CORNER  
IS ANOTHER, LURED BY THE FABULOUS  
GEM--KNOWN AS DIAMOND JIM!

HEY, WHAT A BREAK!  
I'VE BEEN TRAILIN' DAT  
KOHNOOR DIAMOND  
A LONG TIME,  
WAITIN' TO NAB IT!  
NOW'S MY CHANCE--  
IN DA HOSPITAL!





WHEN THE HOSPITAL STAFF  
WAS TAKEN OVER--

THE MADAM SENT ME  
HOME! BUT SHE INSISTS  
ON KEEPING THE DIAMOND  
WITH HER!  
BLAST IT ALL!

I'LL KEEP AN  
EYE ON THINGS  
HERE!



SIMPLE  
FRACTURE.  
SHE'LL BE OUT  
IN A WEEK!

BUT WHAT  
ABOUT THAT  
DIAMOND, DOC?  
SHE WAS WORRIED  
ABOUT IT--!



SURGEON JAMES TRENT IS TO OPERATE ON AN  
OLD FRIEND, ROGER MIEK!

OH THAT! WE  
NOTICED IT! IT  
WAS PLACED IN  
HER BED TABLE,  
WITH HER BELONG-  
INGS! EXCUSE ME,  
NOW--I HAVE AN  
EMERGENCY AP-  
PENDECTOMY WAITING!



JIM! JIM! WILL  
I-- WILL I-- LIVE?

OF COURSE, ROGER!  
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS.  
AND YOU KNOW I  
WOULDN'T KID YOU!



ETHER!



MEANWHILE, CLANCY VISITS  
HIS PATIENT

EVERYTHING  
ALL RIGHT.  
M'AM?

YES, OFFICER!  
THANK YOU SO  
MUCH! I'LL KEEP  
MY VALUABLE DIA-  
MOND WITH ME, IN THIS  
DRAWER! WHAT COULD  
BE SAFER THAN  
A HOSPITAL?



EEK! IT'S  
GONE-- MY  
DIAMOND'S  
GONE!

WHA--??







WHO TOOK IT? OHHH!

NO ONE WAS HERE EXCEPT MYSELF AND DR. TRENT!

HAH!



DIAMOND JIM! SO YOU GRABBED THE ROCK! C'MON, COUGH IT UP!

I DIDN'T, S'HELP ME! YA CAN SEARCH ME, COPPER!



SEE?

I'LL BE--? I SHOULD PULL YA IN ON A VAGRANCY CHARGE, BUT BEAT IT! I GOTTA LOCATE THAT DIAMOND!



I HEARD SOMEONE AT THE DOOR!



THE CHAUFFEUR! WHAT'RE YOU BACK FOR? DID YOU GRAB THAT DIAMOND?

OOPS!



I--ER--CAME BACK FOR A GLOVE I DROPPED! BUT I HAVEN'T THE DIAMOND!

IT'D BULGE OUT IF YA DID! HOLY SMOKE! HOW COULD THAT ROCK VANISH WHILE I WAS STANDIN' GUARD OUTSIDE THE DOOR ALL THE TIME?



MEANWHILE, DR. TRENT FINISHES HIS OPERATION!

YOUR APPENDIX, ROGER! IT'S OUT, AND YOU'RE ALL SEWED UP! THAT WASN'T SO BAD, NOW, WAS IT?



THE PATIENT, WEAK BUT GAME, MAKES A TIME-HONORED JEST--

SURE YOU--UH--DIDN'T LEAVE YOUR--UH--SCISSORS INSIDE OF ME, JIM? HA, HA!

HA, HA!



LATER, CLANCY TELLS THE STORY TO HIS FRIEND, STEEL STERLING --

THEN I SEARCHED TH' WHOLE BLAMED HOSPITAL! NARY A SIGN OF THAT DIAMOND, STEEL! SOMEBODY GOT AWAY WITH IT-- BUT WHO?-- AND HOW?

HMM! MAYBE IT JUST ROLLED IN A CORNER! IT MAY SHOW UP NICE AS YOU PLEASE, ONE DAY!

BUT A MONTH LATER..

HOPE! NEVER SHOWED UP, STEEL! BLAST IT-- I'D LOVE TO CRACK THIS CASE OPEN!

THIS INTRIGUES ME NOW! A FAMOUS DIAMOND LOST FOR A MONTH! C'MON, LET'S VISIT THE HOSPITAL AND RETRACE THE EVENTS!

AS THEY ARRIVE, ROGER MIEK IS JUST BEING DISCHARGED--

THANKS, JIM! I FEEL FIT AS A FIDDLE!

SO LONG, ROGER!

GOSH! OPEN AIR FEELS GOOD AGAIN! GEE, MY FRIENDS WERE GOOD TO ME WHILE I WAS THERE, BRINGING ME FLOWERS AND FRUIT! WHY, I HAVEN'T AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD!

BUT AS IF TO BELIEVE HIS WORDS, A BIG CAR SUDDENLY SEEMS ABOUT TO RUN HIM DOWN AS HE CROSSES THE STREET--

HELP!

COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!

HOLY SOCKS! THAT LITTLE GUY'S IN TROUBLE!

THE MAN OF STEEL STOPS THE PLUNGING VEHICLE!

WHOA, BOY!



THE DRIVER IS NONE OTHER THAN  
MRS. ADAMS CHAUFFEUR!

HEY, YOU! WHAT'S  
THE IDEA, TRYIN'  
TO RUN HIM  
DOWN?

I--I--ER--JUST  
AN ACCIDENT! WHEEL  
SLIPPED OUTA MY HANDS,  
THAT'S ALL!

GOLLY! WHAT A  
SCARE! BUT IT MUST  
BE AN ACCIDENT, OFFICER!  
I DON'T KNOW THIS MAN!  
HE COULDN'T HAVE ANY  
REASON FOR WANTING  
TO KILL ME!

WELL, ALL  
RIGHT, IF YOU  
SAY SO!

SOMETHING GOOFY  
ABOUT THAT! WHY  
SHOULD THAT CHAUF-  
FEUR TRY TO KILL  
MIEK? HE WAS AFTER  
THE DIAMOND, YOU TOLD  
ME--SO WHAT'S THE  
CONNECTION?

GUESS I  
GOTTA LET  
HIM GO!

HAS YOUR  
LIFE EVER  
BEEN THREATENED  
BEFORE, MIEK?

NEVER! THIS  
IS REALLY UP-  
SETTING!

SADLY PUZZLED, MEER MR. MIEK  
GOES OFF, HIS LITTLE SOUL SHAKEN!

MEANWHILE, STEEL AND CLANCY  
ENTER THE HOSPITAL, AND

DR. JAMES  
TRENT, PLEASE!  
OFFICER CLANCY  
CALLING!

DOWN THE  
HALL, ROOM  
106!

DR. TRENT IS THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
SAW THE DIAMOND  
PUT IN THE DRAWER  
MAYBE HE CAN  
GIVE US A CLUE--

WE'LL SEE  
HIM!

ROOM  
106

DR. JAMES  
TRENT



MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE OFFICE, DIAMOND JIM HAS THE SAME IDEA!

DAT DOC KNOWS SOMETHIN' ABOUT DA DIAMOND! WHAT'S DIS?--HIS PRIVATE DIARY?

AHA! BOY DIS MAKES IT ALL CLEAR!

DIARY

A COP-- AND STEEL STERLING!

DIAMOND JIM! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU --!

GOTTA SCRAM!

WANTA PLAY ROUGH, EH?

OKAY!

UGH!

POW

STOP HIM! HE KNOWS SOMETHING!

BUT OUTSIDE THE DOOR, DR TRENT ARRIVES JUST IN TIME TO ACCIDENTALLY KID DIAMOND JIM'S ESCAPE!

HEY! WHAT GOES ON IN MY OFFICE--UGH!

OOF!





WHAT COULD DIAMOND JIM HAVE BEEN AFTER IN YOUR OFFICE, DR. TRENT?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A DETECTIVE! PLEASE LEAVE, GENTLEMEN! I MUST PREPARE FOR AN OPERATION!



CAN YOU MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF IT, STEEL?

I HAVE A HUNCH--THAT ROGER MIEK IS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE CASE! MY THEORY IS SO CRAZY I WON'T EVEN EXPLAIN IT--TILL I HAVE PROOF!



AND I'M GOING OUT FOR IT, NOW!

HEY, STEEL, WAIT!



STEEL HASTENS TO ROGER MIEK'S ADDRESS--

TAKING A WALK!

I'LL TAIL HIM AND SEE IF MY THEORY'S RIGHT!



SUDDENLY!!

BANG BANG

HUH? I'M BEING SH--SHOT AT? HELP!



I'LL TAKE THAT NOW, PAL!

WOT TH--

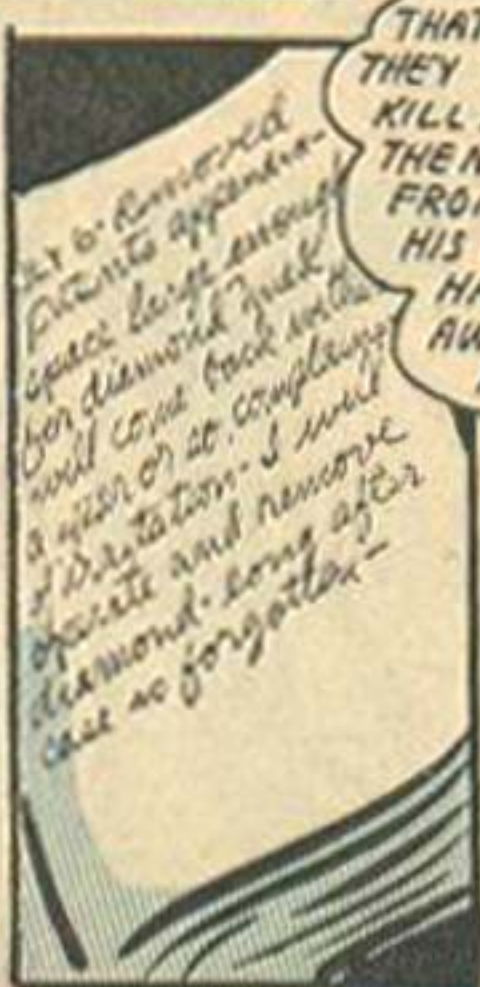


DIAMOND JIM AGAIN! NOW YOU'RE AFTER ROGER MIEK TOO? BUT WHY?











# GINGER



GEE, I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT FIRST DATE WITH TOMMY!

by GINGER



GINGER IS DRESSING FOR A DATE WITH TOMMY. IT'S GOING TO BE A PERFECT DATE BECAUSE GINGER SAYS SO... AND YOU KNOW GINGER!!

STORY BY GOGGIN

IT WAS AT THE YACHT CLUB DANCE UNDER A JUNE MOON AND TOMMY WAS SINGING TO ME

IF I HAD MY WAY DEAR FOREVER THERE'D BE A GARDEN OF ROSES FOR YOU AND FOR ME

OH TOMMY, THIS IS TOO ROMANTIC!

A THOUSAND AND ONE THINGS... OOPS!!





GOOD GOSH!  
I JUST FELT A  
DROP OF RAIN!  
AND I'VE GOT  
DAD'S TUX ON!

I KNOW  
JUST THE  
THING!



QUICK, HERE'S A SHORT  
CUT TO THE CLUB...IF  
I'M NOT MISTAKEN...

ARE  
YOU  
SURE?



OH, TOMMY, WE'VE  
HIT A ROCK!



SURE, I'M SURE! WHY  
I'VE COME THIS WAY  
HUNDREDS OF....

SUDDENLY!

R-R-RIP

BANG

CRASH



YOU JUST KEEP  
BAILING WHILE I  
PADDLE!

WATCH WHERE  
YOU'RE GOING NOW!  
IF THIS TUX GETS WET  
DAD'LL KILL  
ME!

WHY, OF COURSE!  
I KNOW THIS  
STREAM LIKE  
A BOOK!

DUCK,  
TOMMY!  
DUCK!







OH, TOMMY, YOU'RE SO CLUMSY! WHY DIDN'T YOU DUCK?

HEY, GET ME DOWN OUTA HERE!



DON'T WORRY! I'LL SAVE YOU!

HURRY! I TOLD YOU THIS IS MY DAD'S TUX!



... AND I MUSTN'T GET IT W...

OH! IT'S RAINING!



WHY, LOOK! ISN'T THIS FUNNY? WE COULD HAVE WALKED ASHORE!

OH HHH!



AND THEN-- THEN I JUST HAD TO GIVE A PARTY TO MAKE UP TO TOMMY!



HIYA, GINGER!

GEE, BUT YOU'RE LOOKING SHARP TOMMY, DEAR! DID YOUR DAD GET A NEW TUX?



AND I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO START HIM TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF...

TOMMY DEAR, TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THAT TOUCHDOWN YOU MADE!

YEH, TOM! TELL US!



WELL - IF YOU INSIST --  
IT WAS THE LAST QUARTER AND  
THEY WERE AHEAD - SEVEN  
TO SIX --



WE WERE ON THE  
FORTY YARD LINE,  
WITH ONE MINUTE  
TO PLAY!



HE'S COMPLETELY  
FORGOTTEN ABOUT  
GETTING THAT SILLY  
OLD TUCK ALL WET!



SO THE QUARTERBACK  
SAID, "TOMMY, IT'S UP TO YOU  
NOW! YOU GOTTA WIN THIS  
BALL GAME FOR US!"

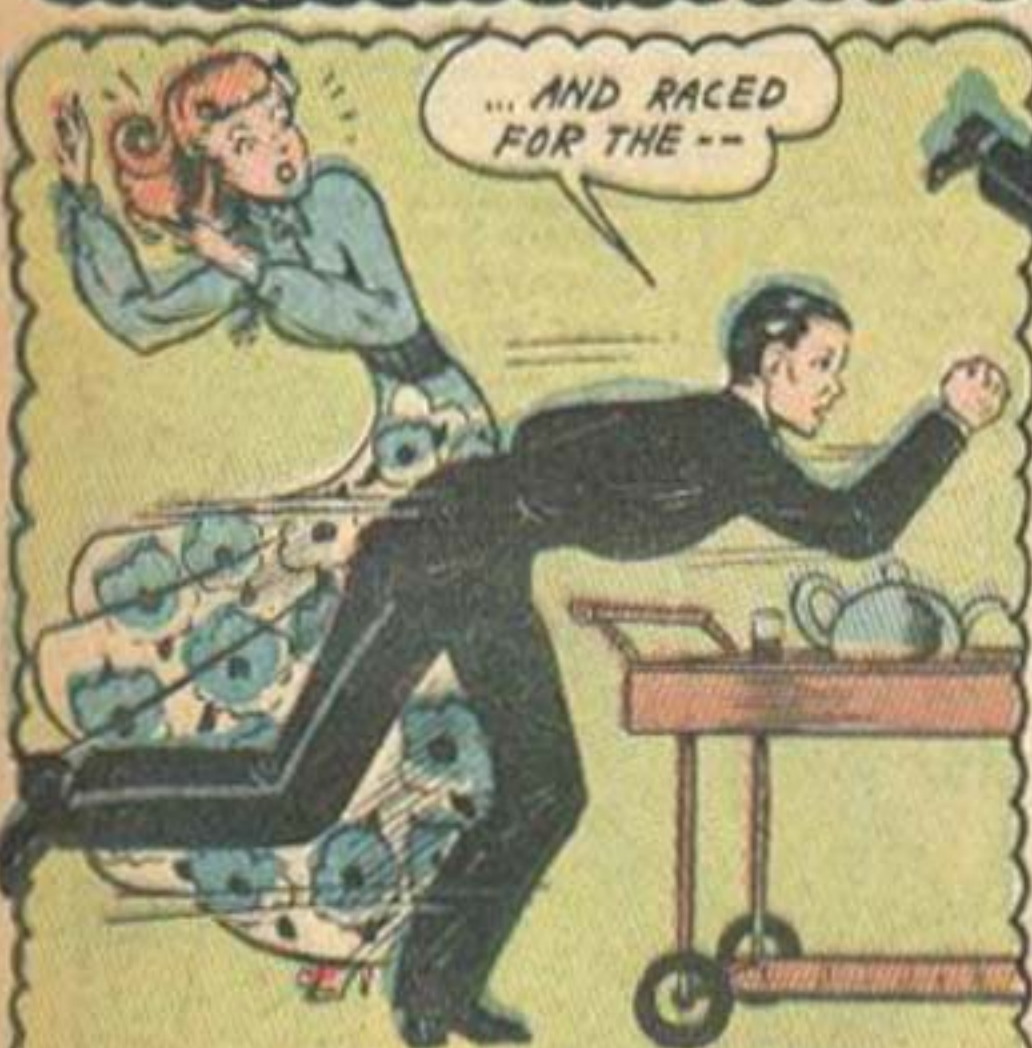


GOSH, I'M  
SO GLAD!

I GRABBED  
THE BALL  
FROM CENTER,  
SPUN AROUND--



... AND RACED  
FOR THE --



HELP!



CRASH









JUST THEN

**CRASH**

YI!

OH, TOMMY  
HURRY DOWN—  
IT'S STARTING  
TO RAIN!

COME ON AND  
STOP MUMBLING!

HEY, WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

GINGER!  
HOLD  
THE  
LADDER!

OMNHN!

OH, DEAR!  
MAYBE TOMMY  
AND I WERE  
NEVER MEANT  
FOR EACH  
OTHER!

**HALP!**

TOMMY!  
THE VERY  
IDEA! WHY  
DON'T YOU--  
OH...

AND IF I EVER  
SEE ANOTHER  
TUX, I'LL  
**SCREAM!**

CLASH CAN

MY  
DIARY  
GINGER



# RED RUBE



H-HEY,  
R-RUBE!

DOWN MEXICO WAY, EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT "EL TORNADO!", THE FIERCEST BULL THAT EVER GORED A MATADOR! IT IS RUMORED THAT EL TORNADO CAN OUTCHARGE AN ARMORED TANK, THAT HIS HORNS ARE SHARPER THAN BAYONETS, AND THAT HE IS SO FEROCIOUS THAT A MERE LOOK AT HIM TURNS THE BRAVEST MAN INTO A COWARD! SO WHEN RED RUBE IS INVITED TO MEXICO TO FURTHER LATIN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND FINDS HIMSELF IN THE ARENA WITH EL TORNADO, SURPRISING THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN! SURPRISING BOTH TO RED RUBE... AND EL TORNADO!



Bill Vigoda



IN THE OFFICES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS COUNCIL -

WHAT A CALAMITY!  
WITH POLITICAL CONDITIONS  
SO UNCERTAIN IN MEXICO  
CITY, OUR AMBASSADOR  
AND HIS WHOLE STAFF  
COMES DOWN WITH  
THE MEASLES!



BUT WHO CAN  
WE GET? WHO?

I ADVERTISED FOR  
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS  
RED RUBE! I  
THOUGHT MAYBE  
HE'D APPEAR!



IS SOMEBODY  
HERE LOOKING  
FOR RED  
RUBE?

WHAT DO YOU  
CARE? YOU'RE  
NOT RED RUBE!



UNLESS WE COULD  
SEND A GOOD-WILL  
AMBASSADOR DOWN  
THERE TO SMOOTH  
THINGS OVER  
TEMPORARILY, THE  
LATIN-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS WILL  
SUFFER A  
DAMAGING BLOW!



IT'S TOO LATE!  
WE'RE RUINED!

PARDON  
ME...

I THINK I  
KNOW WHERE  
TO FIND HIM!

YOU DO? WELL  
THEN, BRING HIM  
HERE!







IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME A MINUTE... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



ONCE OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, REUBEN REUBEN PRONOUNCES THE MAGIC WORDS--

HEY, RUBE!

INSTANTLY THE AIR VIBRATES WITH A STRANGE ELECTRICITY--



NOW I'LL SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

AND REUBEN REUBEN THE NEWSBOY, BECOMES THE MIGHTY RED RUBE!



RED RUBE!

HE DID COME! OH JOY!

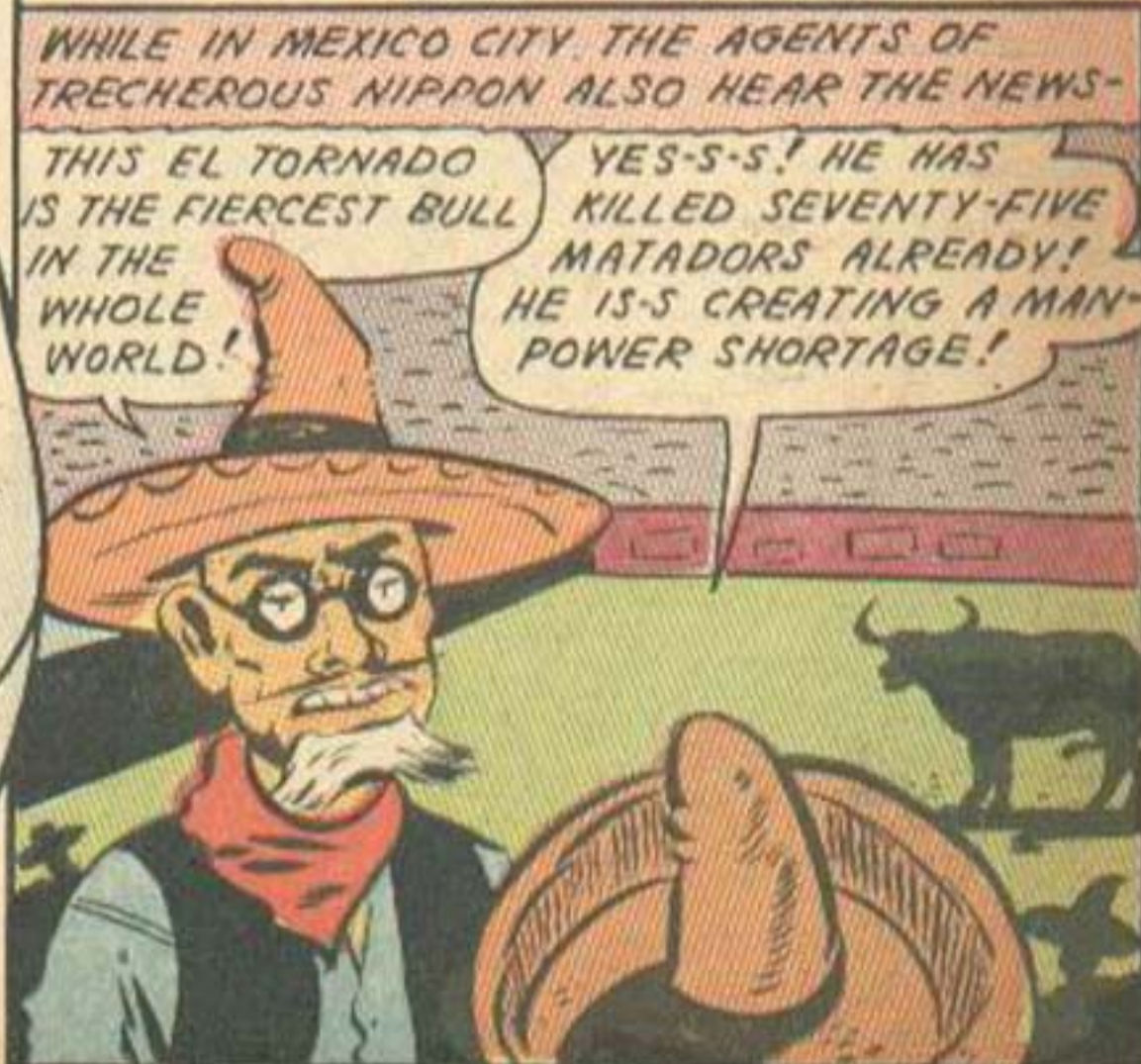


QUICKLY THE SITUATION IS EXPLAINED--

I'LL BE GLAD TO SERVE IN SUCH A GOOD CAUSE! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

GOOD! THE PLANE LEAVES FOR MEXICO CITY IN AN HOUR!

RED RUBE TO MEET EL TORNADO!



WHILE IN MEXICO CITY, THE AGENTS OF TRECHEROUS NIPPON ALSO HEAR THE NEWS--

THIS EL TORNADO IS THE FIERCEST BULL IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

YES-S-S! HE HAS KILLED SEVENTY-FIVE MATADORS ALREADY! HE IS-S-CREATING A MAN-POWER SHORTAGE!



LOOK HOW BIG HE IS-S! YES-S?

IT IS-S POSSIBLE HE CAN DEFEAT RED RUBE, YE-S?



WE MUST DO SOMETHING! NOW HERE IS-S MY PLAN....

MOST EXCELLENT! STUPENDOUS-S-S! IT IS EVEN OKAY!



WHY DECEIVE OURSELVES? WE HAVE ALL HEARD OF THIS RED RUBE! WE KNOW WHAT HE CAN DO!

HE WILL TEAR EL TORNADO APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS!



MEANWHILE RED RUBE ENTERS MEXICO CITY IN A TRIUMPHANT PROCESSION-

VIVA RED RUBE!

VIVA LOS AMERICANOS!



YOU'RE A HIT! THE PEOPLE ARE GOING CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

I HOPE THEY STILL LIKE ME AFTER I MEET EL TORNADO IN THE ARENA TOMORROW!



LATER, IN THE SUITE OF ROOMS AT MEXICO CITY'S LARGEST HOTEL! -

I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT MYSELF! BUT I HOPE I CAN PUT ON A GOOD SHOW FOR THESE PEOPLE! THEY'VE BEEN SWELL!

I BRING YOU ICE WATER, YES-S!





LITTLE DOES RED RUBE SUSPECT THAT THIS INNOCENT GLASS OF ICE WATER CONTAINS ENOUGH SLEEPING PILLS TO PUT THE AVERAGE MAN INTO A COMA LASTING FIFTY YEARS!

YOU'LL BE A SENSATION!  
ONLY DON'T BE TOO  
ROUGH WITH EL TORNADO!



I'M A LITTLE  
TIRED! GUESS I'LL  
GRAB SOME  
SLEEP!

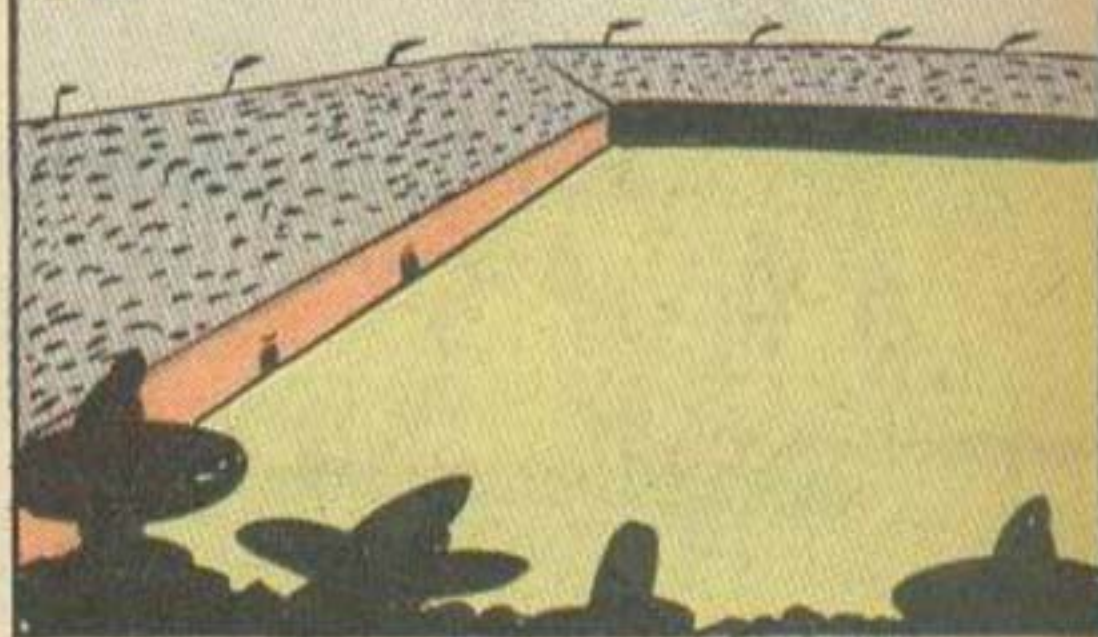
SEE YOU  
AT THE  
ARENA  
TOMORROW!



HEH! HEH! IF RED RUBE GOES  
TO FIGHT EL TORNADO IN THE  
MORNING, HE'LL BE A DEAD  
MAN TOMORROW AFTERNOON!  
YES-S-S!



NEXT DAY A HUGE CROWD  
GATHERS AT THE ARENA TO  
WATCH THE BATTLE OF THE  
CENTURY.. RED RUBE VS. EL  
TORNADO!



HERE HE  
COMES!

BUT WHAT'S THE  
MATTER WITH HIM?  
HE LOOKS HALF ASLEEP!



WHAT'S GOT INTO  
HIM? HE CAN'T  
STAND UP!





HALF ASLEEP? ONLY RED RUBE'S MAGNIFICENT POWERS ARE ABLE TO KEEP HIM CONSCIOUS AT ALL!!



YOUR SWORD, SENOR RED RUBE!

NO. YAWN. THANKS! HMM. ZZZ

DIOS MIO! HE HAS REFUSED TO TAKE A SWORD!

SOOCH COURAGE! HE IS JUS' AS WONDERFUL AS LES AMERICANES SAY!



YOUR CAPE, SENOR?

ZZZ. I'LL USE MY OWN. HMM. THANKS, ANYWAY!



SANTA MARIA! HE DOES NOT EVEN USE THE CAPE!

EL TORNADO WILL KILL HIM SURE FOR CERTAIN!



AT THIS MOMENT EL TORNADO EMERGES INTO THE ARENA -

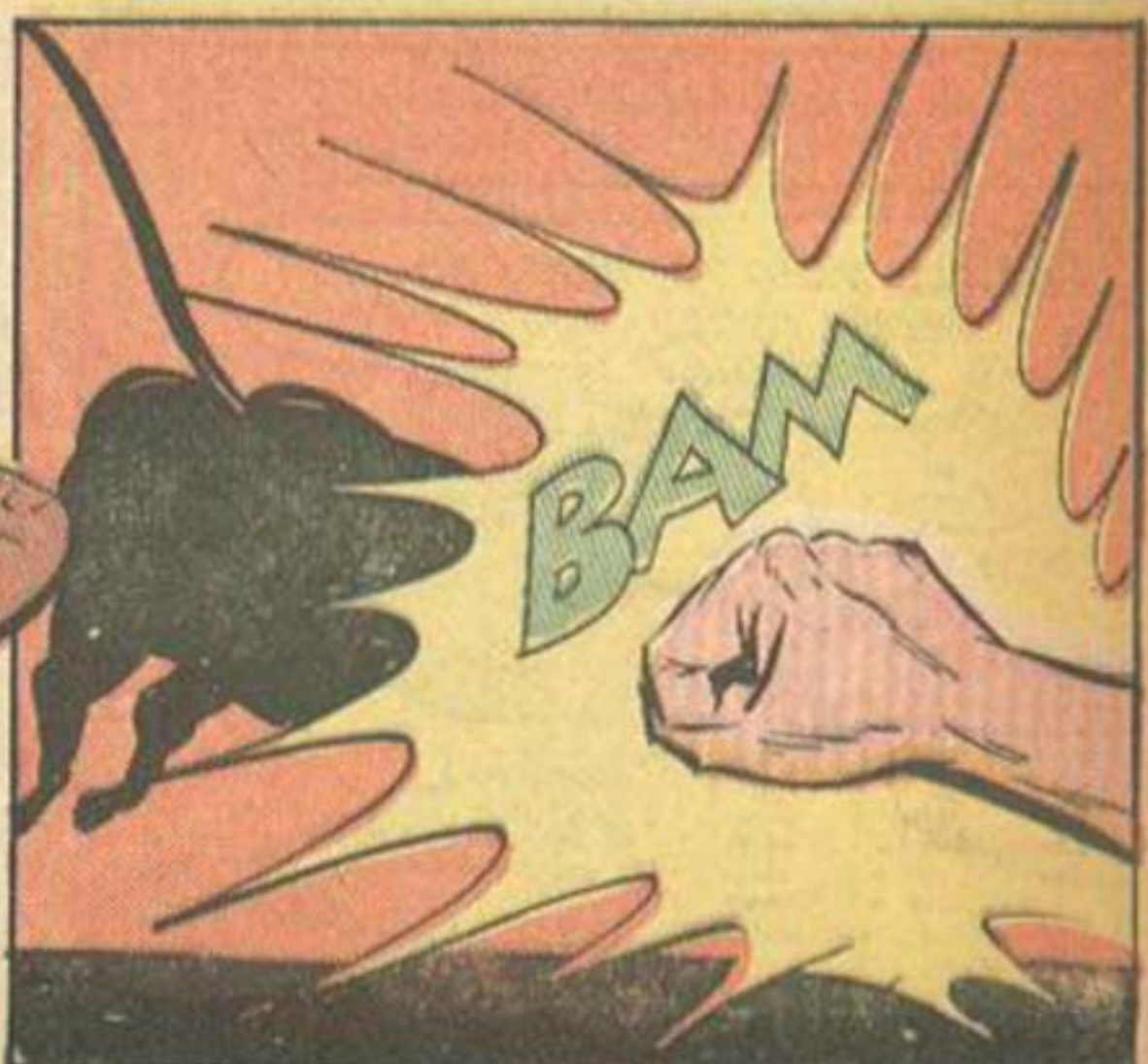
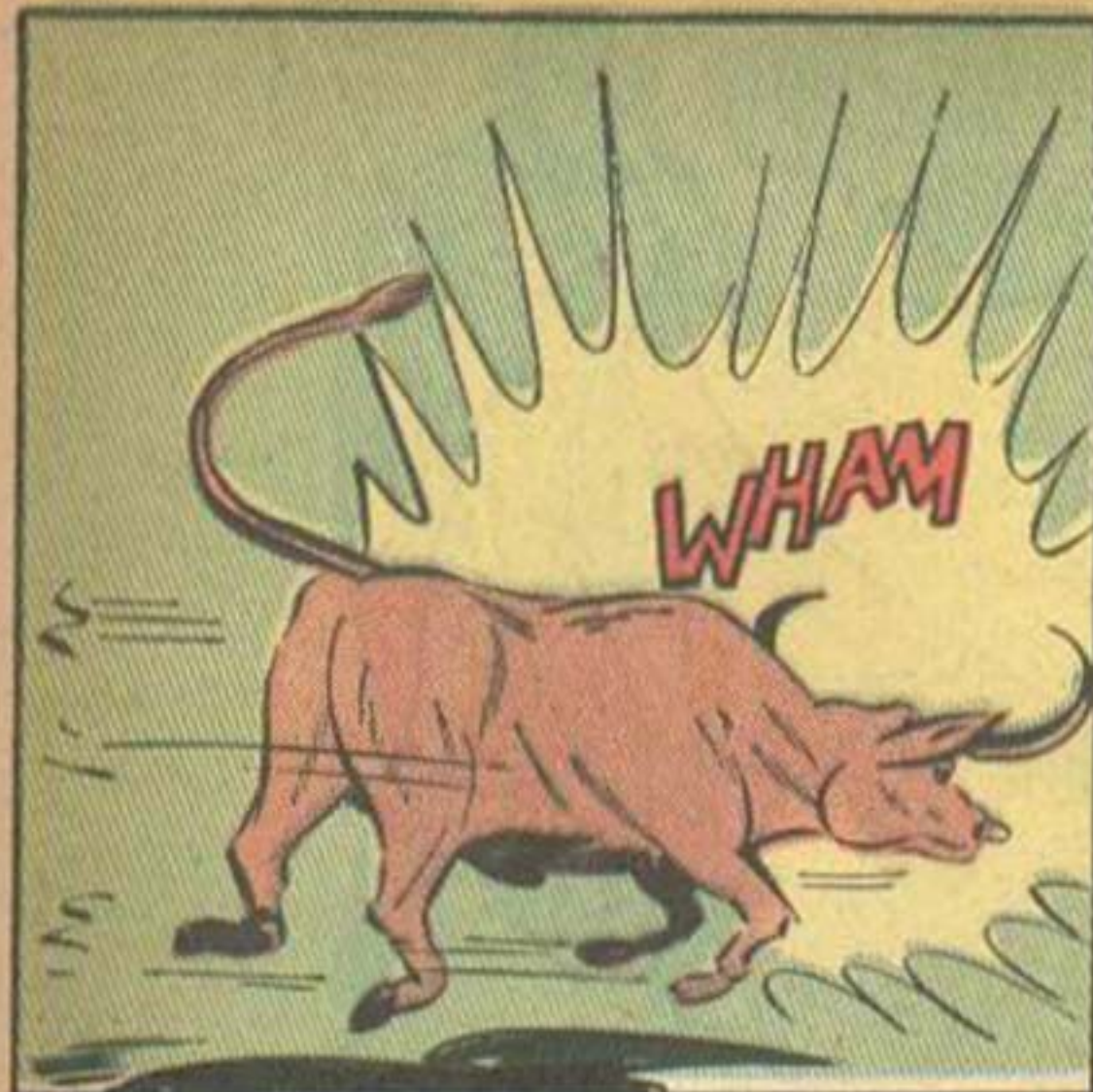
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



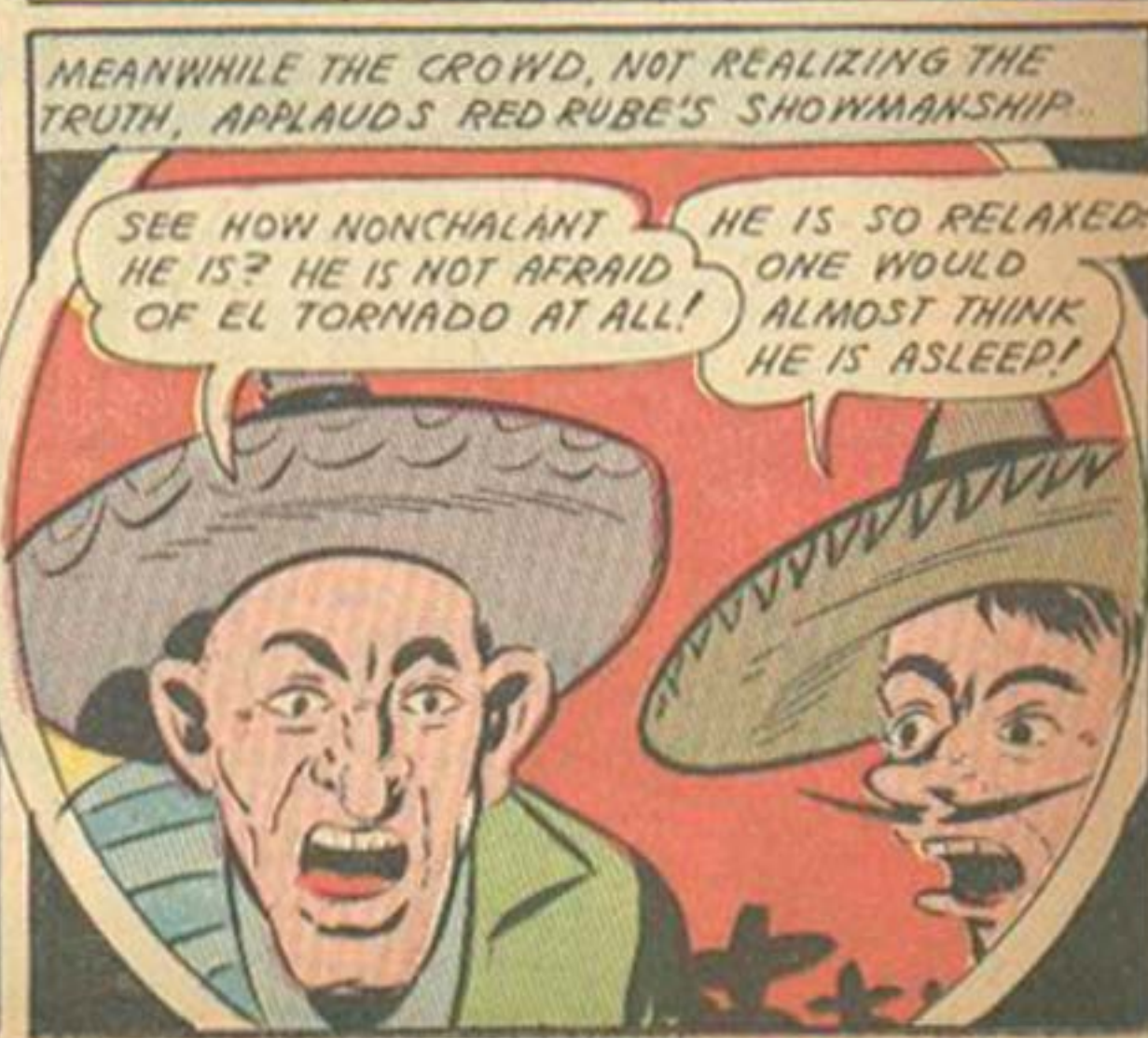
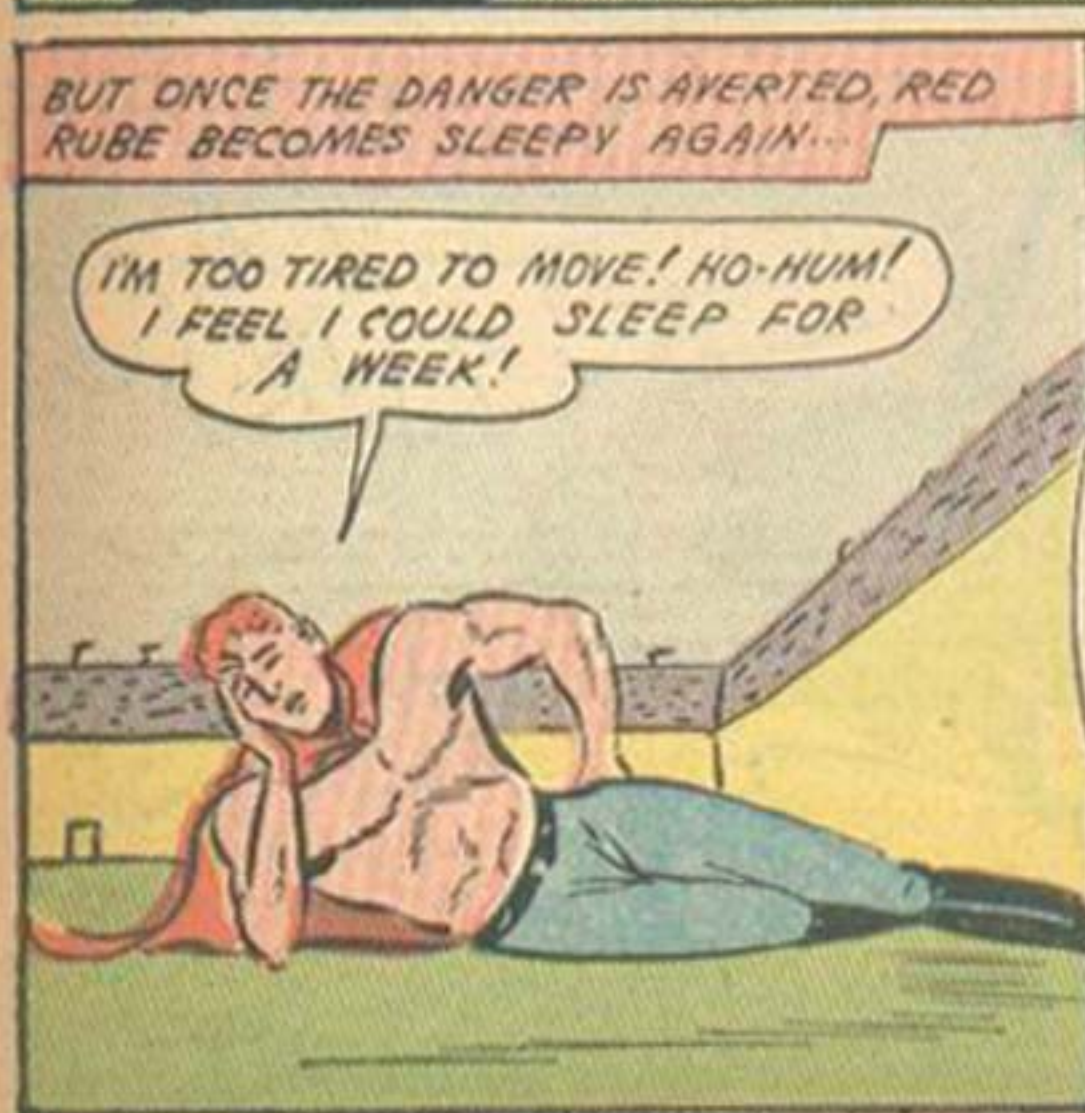
ONE MATADOR DOES NOT RUN QUITE FAST ENOUGH AND EL TORNADO TRAPS HIM IN THE ARENA -

POOR SANCHE! I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK!

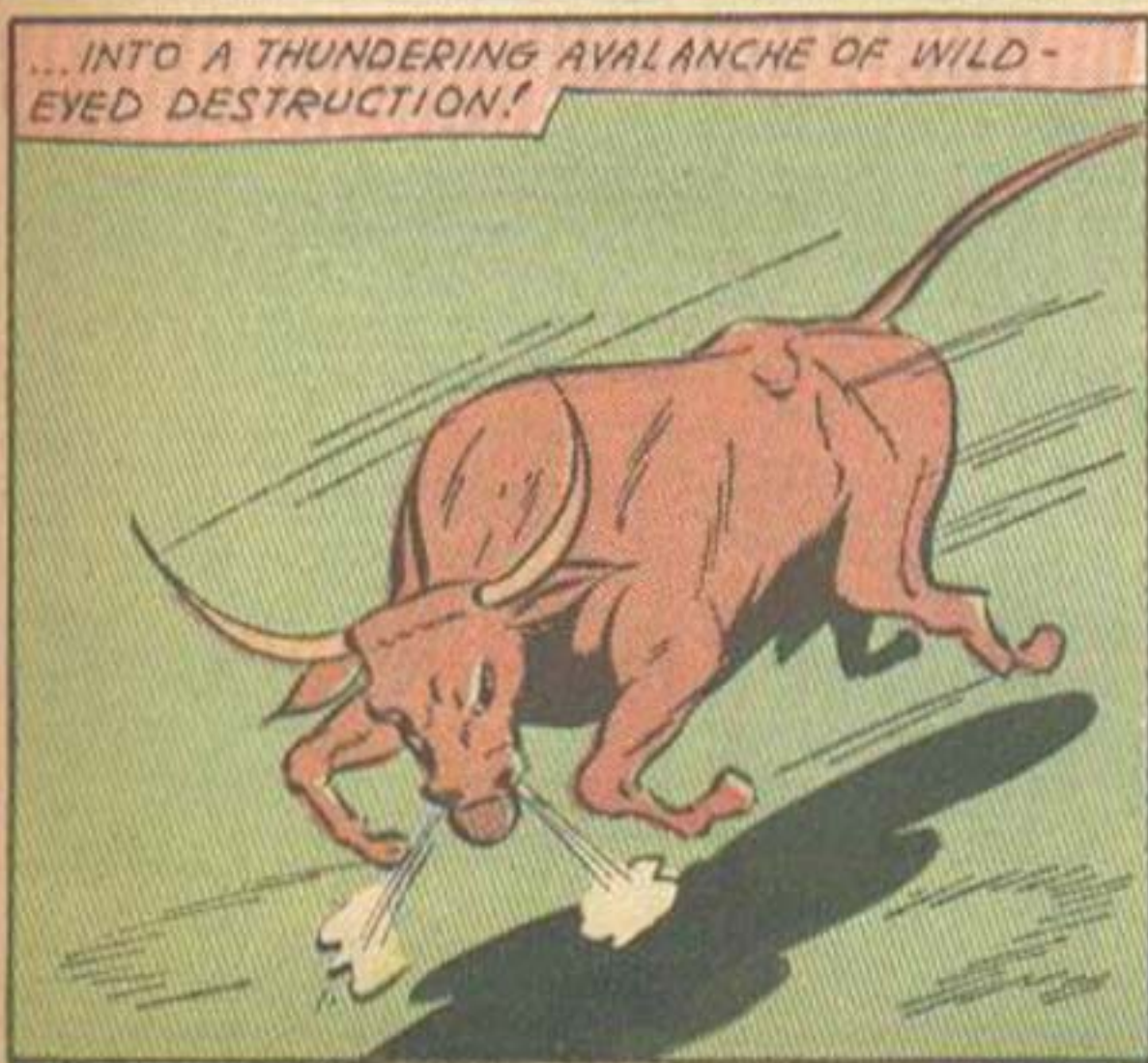
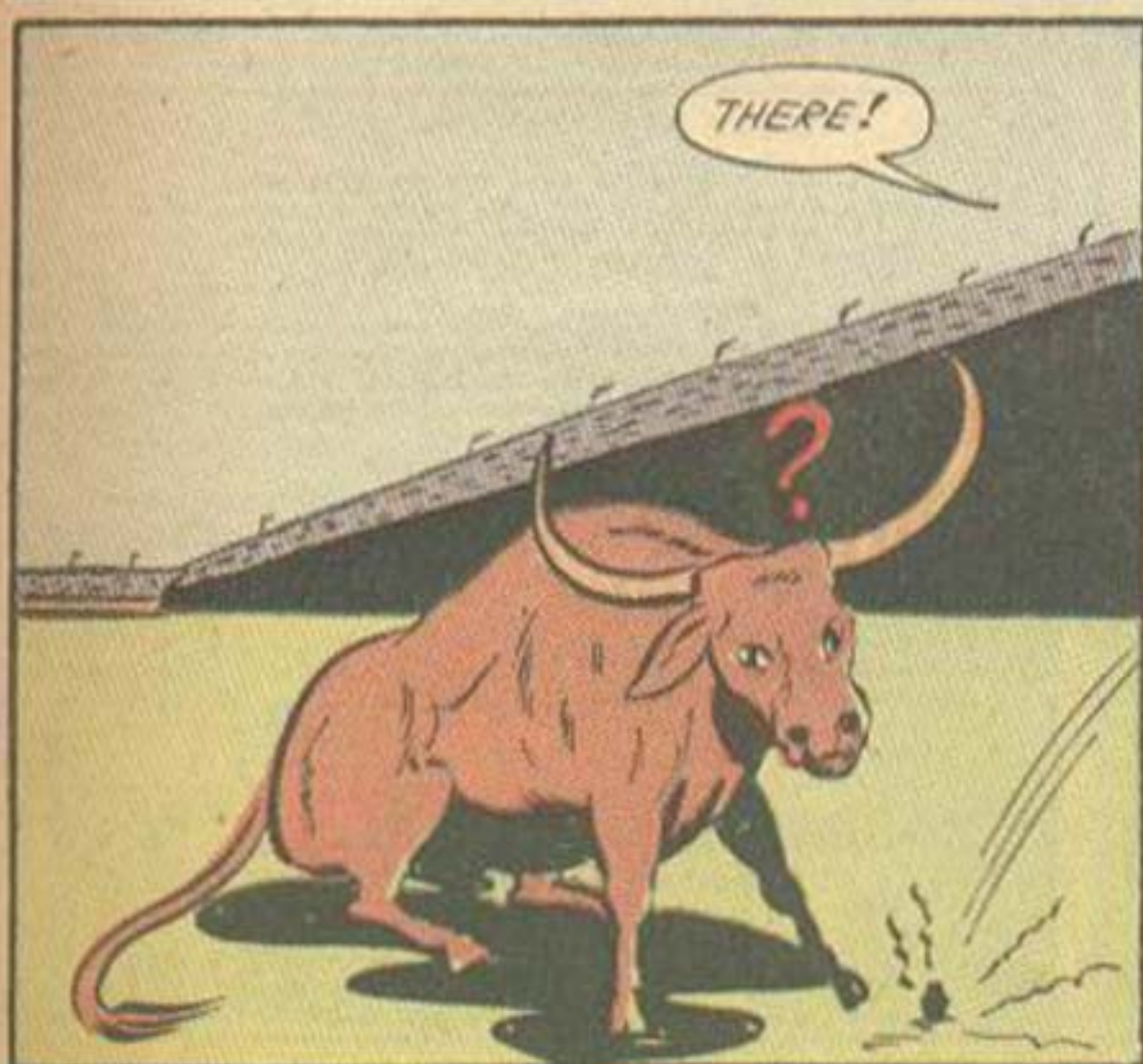
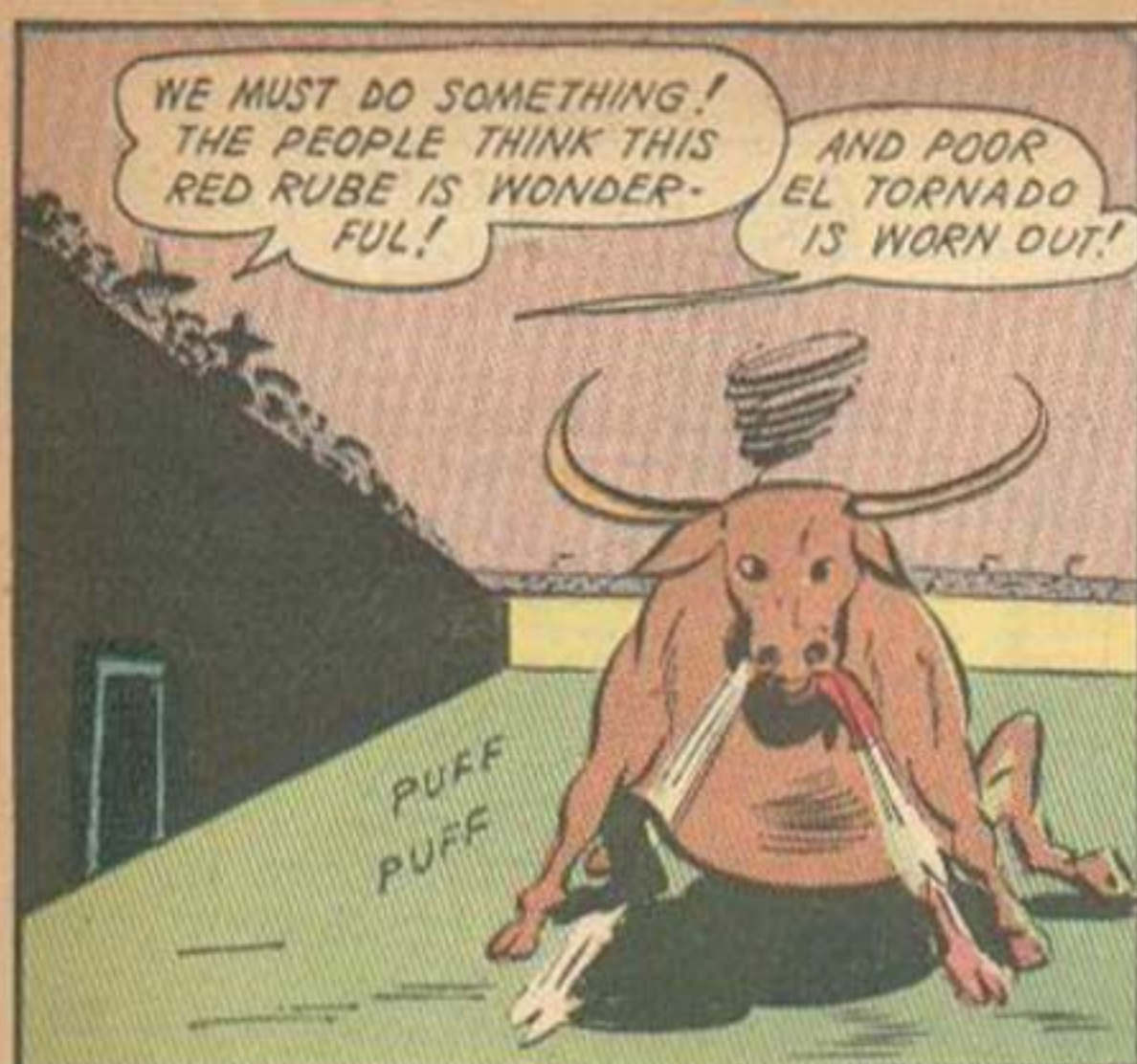












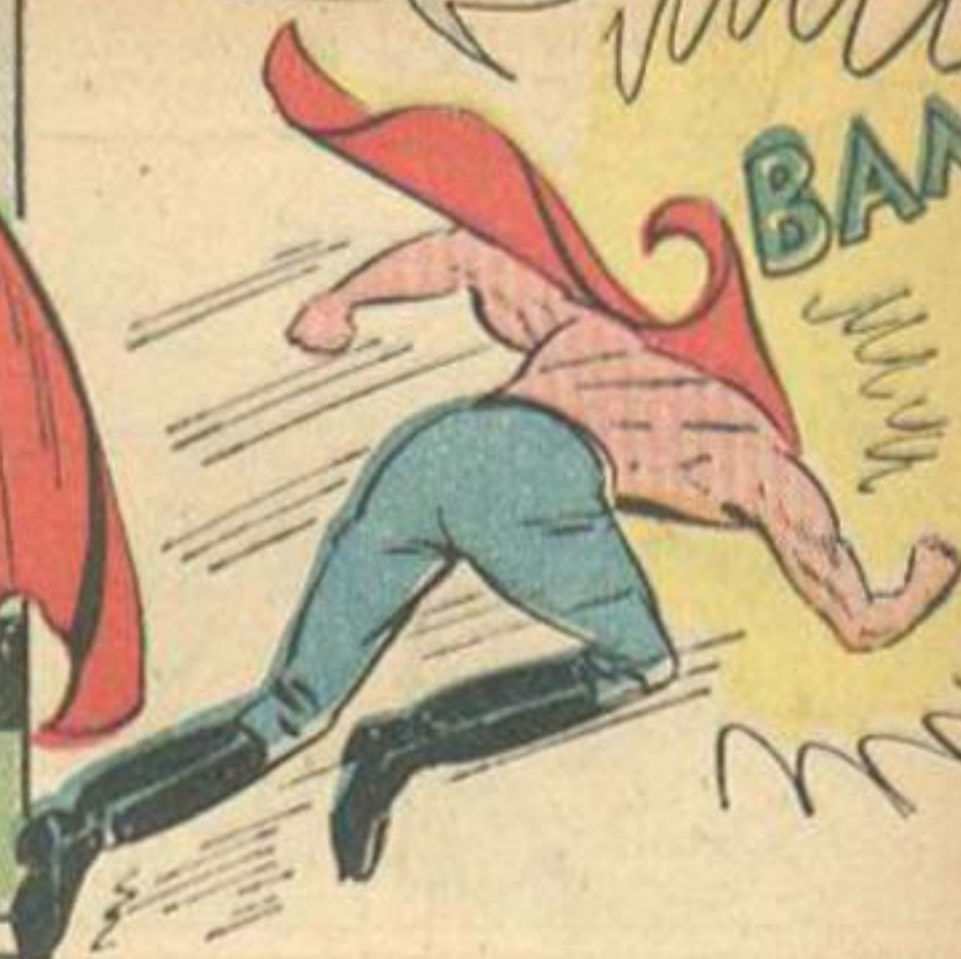


I CAN'T GET AWAY!  
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO  
EXCEPT...



MEET THE DANGER  
HEAD ON!

BAM



AS THE DUST AND HAZE OF THAT TERRIFIC COL-  
LISION FADES, WE SEE A STRANGE SCENE -

THERE, THERE!  
YOU'LL BE ALL  
RIGHT! YOU'LL  
JUST HAVE A  
BAD HEADACHE  
FOR A  
WHILE!



LATER... THESE MEN THREW GARLIC TO EL  
TORNADO! WE CAUGHT THEM TRYING  
TO ESCAPE! THEY DEED NOT GET  
VERY FAR!

JAPS! I MUST  
CONGRATULATE  
YOU ON YOUR  
EXCELLENT POLICE  
WORK!



COME TO THINK OF IT, ONE  
OF THOSE MEN LOOKED LIKE  
THE BELLBOY AT THE HOTEL!  
I'LL BET THAT'S WHY I FELT  
LIKE I WAS  
DRUGGED!  
I REALLY  
WAS!



BUT ALL'S WELL THAT  
ENDS WELL. AND LATER  
RED RUBE SHARES THE  
PLAUDITS OF THE  
CROWDS WITH HIS  
VALIANT OPPONENT -

VIVA! LONG LIVE RED  
RUBE! LONG LIVE EL  
TORNADO!



THAT'S ALL FOLKS! EXCEPT  
THAT EL TORNADO WAS  
NEVER THE SAME AFTER-  
WARD! IN FACT, HE BECAME  
THE MOST PEACEFUL BULL  
IN THE WHOLE OF MEXICO!  
HE LEARNED HIS LESSON  
FROM RED RUBE!





# STEEL STERLING



IN  
THE  
CASE OF  
THE  
*TALKING*  
*DOG*



GEE! I'VE ALREADY  
SOLD 159 TICKETS TO THE  
POLICEMAN'S BALL: AL  
SMITH, THE THEATRICAL  
BOOKING AGENT, IS  
ALWAYS GOOD FOR  
ONE!



NO ANSWER! THAT'S FUNNY,  
I CALLED HIM ON THE PHONE,  
THIS MORNING AND HE SAID  
HE'D BE IN! HMMM—THE  
DOOR IS OPEN!



HUH? NO ONE  
HERE BUT A  
POOCH!



HERE DOGGIE,  
NICE DOGGIE!

SNIFF!  
SNIFF!



AW, GO FUDDLE A  
DUDDLE, FATTIE!

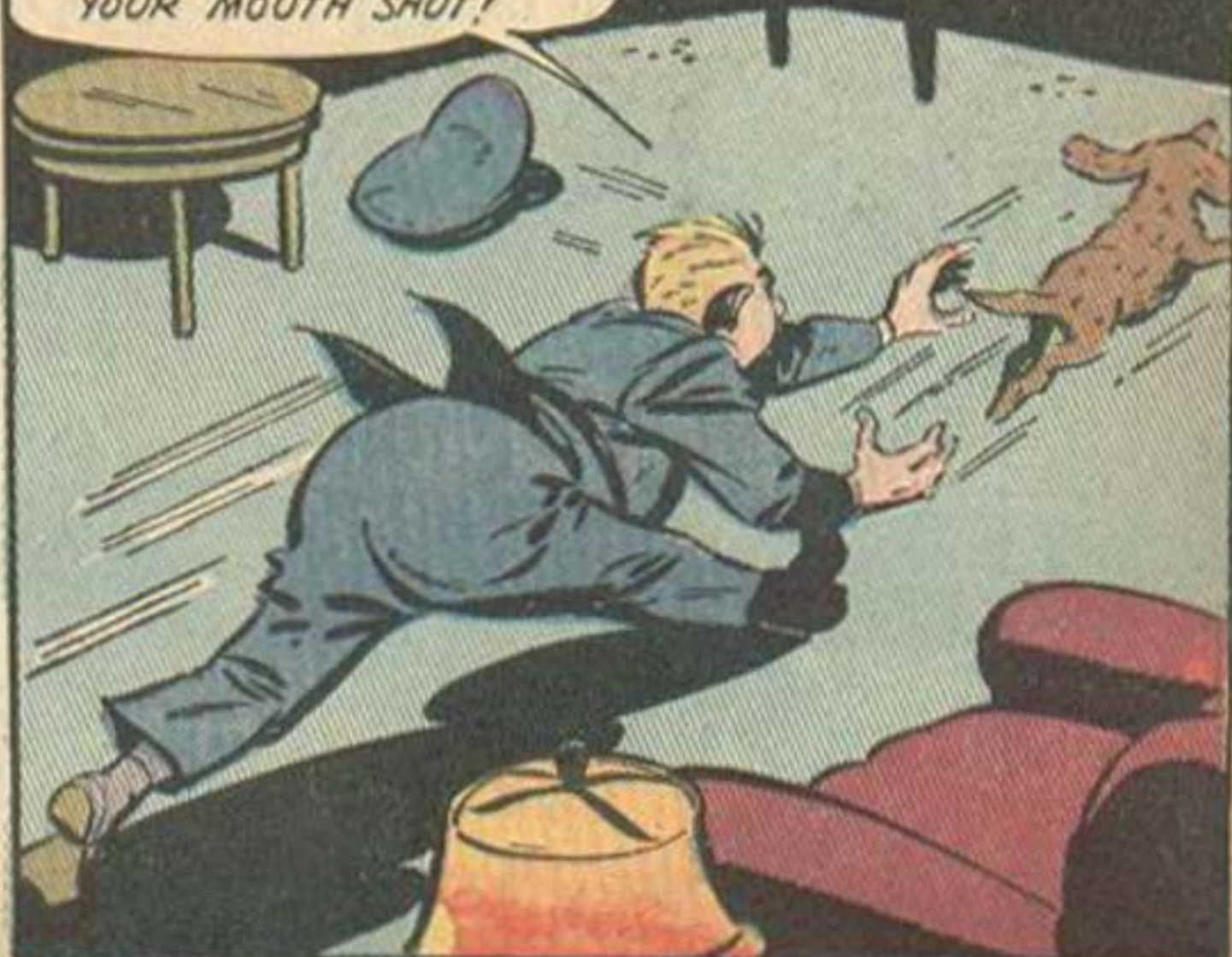
OK,  
IF THAT'S THE  
WAY YOU FEEL  
ABOUT IT!



HUH? WHAT DID YA  
SAY? WHY YOU—!!



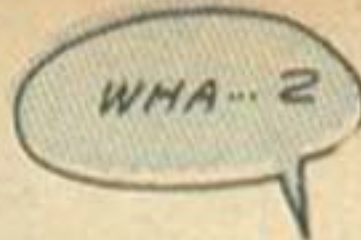
YOU MUTT!  
IF I LAY MY HANDS ON YOU,  
YOU'LL WISH YOU'D KEPT  
YOUR MOUTH SHUT!







GOTCHA!



WHA...?



OOF!



ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, TEMPER, CLANCY WATCH YOUR TEMPER! FIVE, SIX, .....



NOW, SEE! YOU GOT ME ALL UPSET! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF NOW? — SO YOU WON'T TALK, EH?

- TALK ? WHAT AM I SAYING ? OH MY GOSH! DID THAT DOG REALLY TALK ?



YOU'RE COMIN' WITH ME! WE'RE GONNA FIND YER MASTER, HE'LL CLEAR THIS UP! MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT I COULDA SWORN I HEARD YOU TALK!



I'VE TRIED EVERYPLACE BUT THE BEDROOM, WELL WHADDAYA KNOW? THERE'S AL... ASLEEP IN THE BED!



HEY AL! GET UP! GEE HE SURE CAN SLEEP! HEY AL, WAKE UP! IT'S ME, CLANCY!



I'LL YANK THE COVERS OFF YA 'N YE'LL HAVE TO GET UP! YOU LAZY BUGGER!



HUH! OH GOSH! HE'S - HE'S - HE'S -



MEANWHILE AT THE POLICE STATION ---

CLANCY MAY BE YOUR PAL, STERLING, BUT HE SURE IS DUMB!

YOU'RE NO QUIZ KID YOURSELF, MULLIGAN!



GRAB YOUR PHONE! IT'S RINGING!



PHONE? WHAT PHONE! OH YEAH! YOU MEAN MY PHONE!

HULLO! WHO-WHAT? TALKING DOG? - WHO IS THIS? - DEAD? - WHO'S DEAD? - CLANCY? - CLANCY'S DEAD? - DOG? AL SMITH? -





HERE, YOU TALK TO THAT CLUCK! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING HE SAYS!

IT'S STEEL, CLANCY. NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE, AL SMITH'S... 1340 ELM ST. OKAY, WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

WELL, SMITH'S DEAD ALL RIGHT... BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A TALKING DOG, CLANCY?

YEAH, STUPID! IF YOU USED YER EYES MORE AN' YER IMAGINATION LESS, YA MIGHTA CAUGHT THE MURDERER!

BUT IT DID TALK I TELL YA!

G'WAY, ARE YOU TRYIN' TO TELL ME THAT THIS POOCH TALKED?

YEAH!... AND IT MADE MORE SENSE THAN YOU!

CLANCY YER NUTS!

IZZASO! WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE POOCH A QUESTION AN' SEE FOR YOURSELF, WISE GUY!

I'LL TRY IT CLANCY WHAT'S YOUR NAME, POOCH?

LISTEN! I KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE THINKIN'! BUT I'M NOT CRAZY I TELL YA! THAT DOG TALKED!





I DON'T THINK YOU'RE NUTS - I KNOW YOU ARE! I'M CALLIN' FOR THE CORONER TO REMOVE THE BODY!



LATER, AT STEEL'S APARTMENT -  
MAYBE MULLIGAN'S RIGHT-- MAYBE I AM CRAZY (GULP)  
HMM-- SMITH WAS IN THE SHOW BUSINESS AND BOOKED PLENTY OF PRANKS! BUT, TALK-ING DOG!



BY GEORGE! CLANCY I'VE GOT IT!

HUH? WHAT?



MAYBE THAT DOG DID TALK! BUT I THINK I KNOW HOW!



YOU DO? HOW?

VENTRILO-QUISM, CLANCY!



I'M GOING TO SMITH'S APARTMENT AND HAVE A LOOK AT HIS FILES TO SEE IF HE EVER BOOKED A VENTRILOQUIST!



I ONLY HOPE THE KILLER DIDN'T THINK OF IT FIRST!



AT AL'S APARTMENT SOMETIME  
LATER--

NOW WHERE IS THAT COP  
MULLIGAN LEFT HERE TO  
GUARD THE PLACE!

WHAT'S  
THAT 2

DEAD.. I GOT  
HERE TOO  
LATE!

I'LL LOOK  
ANYWAY TO  
MAKE SURE!

NOPE..  
NOTHING HERE...  
JAY WHAT'S THAT  
ON THE FLOOR?

ASHES. AND  
VERY FRESH  
FROM THE  
LOOKS OF IT!

IT'S A FAR-  
FETCHED  
CHANCE!





BUT I'LL  
TAKE THIS  
TO THE POLICE  
LAB!



DO YOU THINK  
YOU'LL BE ABLE  
TO ANALYZE THESE  
ASHES?

I THINK SO! AS LONG  
AS THE ASH ISN'T  
BROKEN UP, I CAN  
GET SOMETHING  
OUT OF IT!



AFTER AWHILE-

WELL, HERE'S THE  
RESULT STEEL! I  
HOPE IT'S WHAT YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR!

SO DO I!

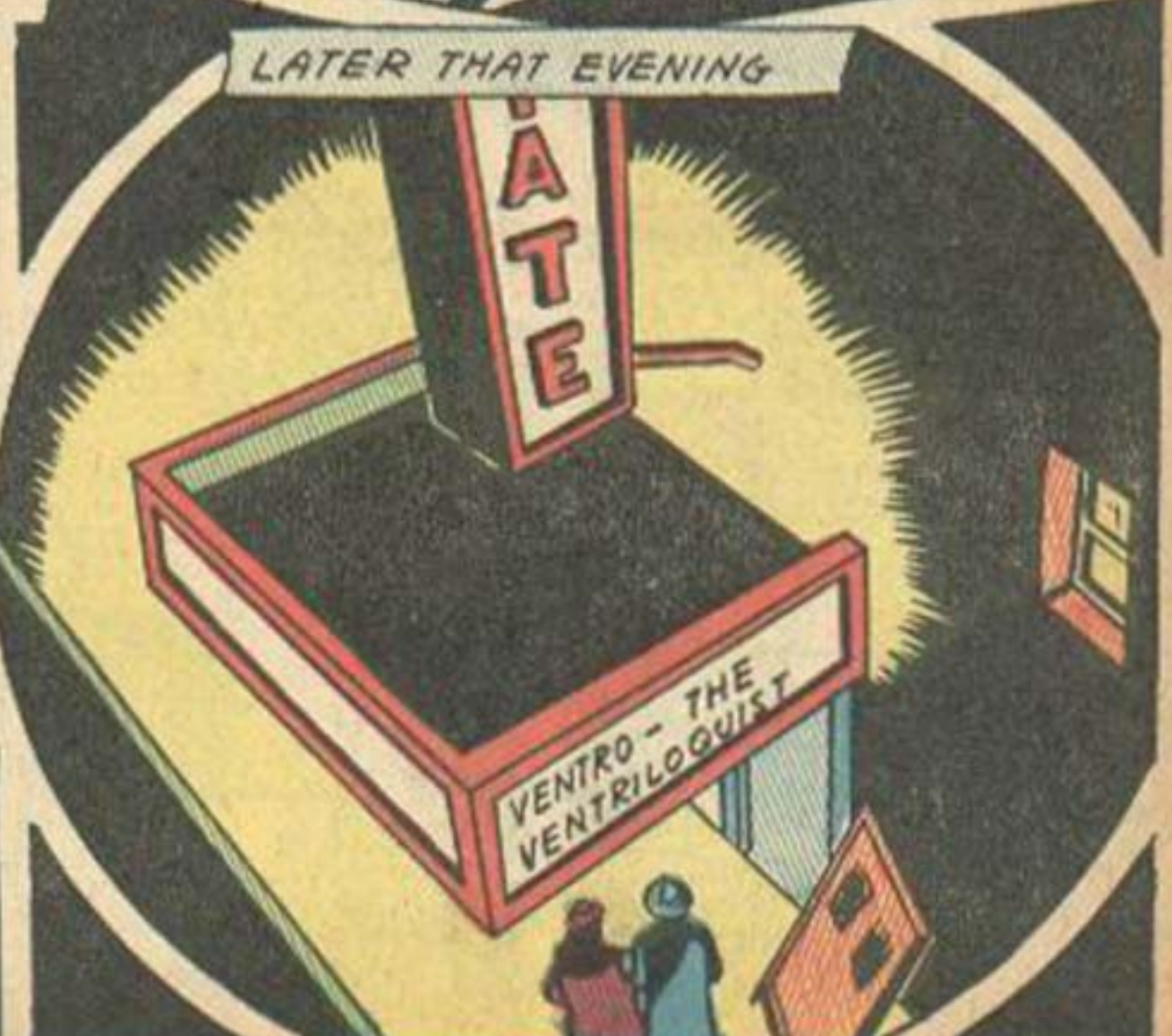


AL SMITH BOOKING AGENCY  
THEATRICALS  
NAME - Ventrone the Ventriloquist  
ADDRESS - 452 Alabama Ave  
BOOKINGS - Bijou Theatre  
Roxey  
Capital  
State



PERFECT EVER  
HEAR OF VENTRO.  
THE VENTRILO-  
QUIST, DOC!

SURE JUST  
CAUGHT HIS ACT  
AT THE STATE  
LAST NIGHT!  
CLEVER CHAP!



LATER THAT EVENING



I LIKE YOUR  
CRUST CALLING  
ME DUMB, CHARLIE!  
WHY YOU'RE CLOSE  
TO A MORON!

HMM--SO I'M  
CLOSE TO A  
MORON, VENTRO.  
AM I?



IN THAT CASE  
I'LL MOVE AWAY  
HEH, HEH! SOME  
JOKE HUH FOLKS!



THAT'S EASY! A  
GLASS OF BEER HAS  
A HEAD ON IT! HO, HO, HO



SAY CHARLIE,  
WHAT'S THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN VENTRO  
AND A GLASS OF  
BEER?



ASK ME  
ANOTHER ONE  
FOLKS! ANY  
SIMILARITY TO AN  
INSULT IS PURELY  
INTENTIONAL!

HO  
HO  
HA

HA  
HA



HERE'S AN EASY  
ONE, CHARLIE!  
WHY DID YOUR  
BOSS, VENTRO,  
KILL AL SMITH?

STEEL  
STERLING!



TOO BAD FOR  
YOU, YOU FOUND  
OUT, STERLING!





WELL, IF IT  
ISN'T PISTOL  
PACKIN' VENTRO!

PANIC-STRICKEN, VENTRO  
DARTS BACKSTAGE

I WONDER WHERE THAT  
BUGGER DISAPPEARED  
TO!

OH! OH! DON'T  
BOTHR ANSWERING  
THAT! I KNOW WHERE  
HE IS!

I DON'T  
SUPPOSE I  
CAN COAX  
YOU TO  
COME DOWN!

WHAM

SO I'LL  
COME UP  
AFTER YOU!

THE JIG'S UP VENTRO  
YOU MAY AS WELL  
CONFESS RIGHT NOW!

ALLRIGHT STERLING,  
I'LL CONFESS, BUT YOU  
MUST LET ME DO IT IN  
MY OWN WAY!

OKAY!  
BUT NO  
TRICKS!

MEANWHILE ON STAGE

PLEASE BE CALM, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN! IT WAS ALL A MIS-  
TAKE AND EVERYTHING'S UNDER  
CONTROL NOW! VENTRO WILL  
NOW GO ON WITH HIS ACT!

ZOWIE



NOW FOR THE \$64 QUESTION, CHARLIE! WHO MURDERED AL SMITH-AND WHY?

SIMPLE! YOU DID, BOSS! SMITH WAS A RAT AND GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM!

HE WAS CHEATING YOU FOR YEARS, GIVING YOU HALF THE BOOKING MONEY THAT WAS COMING TO YOU!

GOOD LORD! THE FOOL'S SHOT HIMSELF!

WELL, WE SURE CRACKED THAT CASE, HUH, STEEL?

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU, CLANCY!

BOY AM I A SUCKER FALLING FOR A GAG LIKE THAT! IMAGINE ME THINKING A DOG CAN TALK! HAW, HAW! AIN'T THAT A LAUGH!

YEAH, HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO STUPID AS TO THINK AN ANIMAL CAN TALK!

YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL HORSIE!

SEE, IT'S SIMPLE! JUST PLACE THIS GADGET ON THE TIP OF THE TONGUE AND YOU CAN THROW YOUR VOICE ANYWHERE!

HUH!

AS I WUZ SAYIN, STEEL....

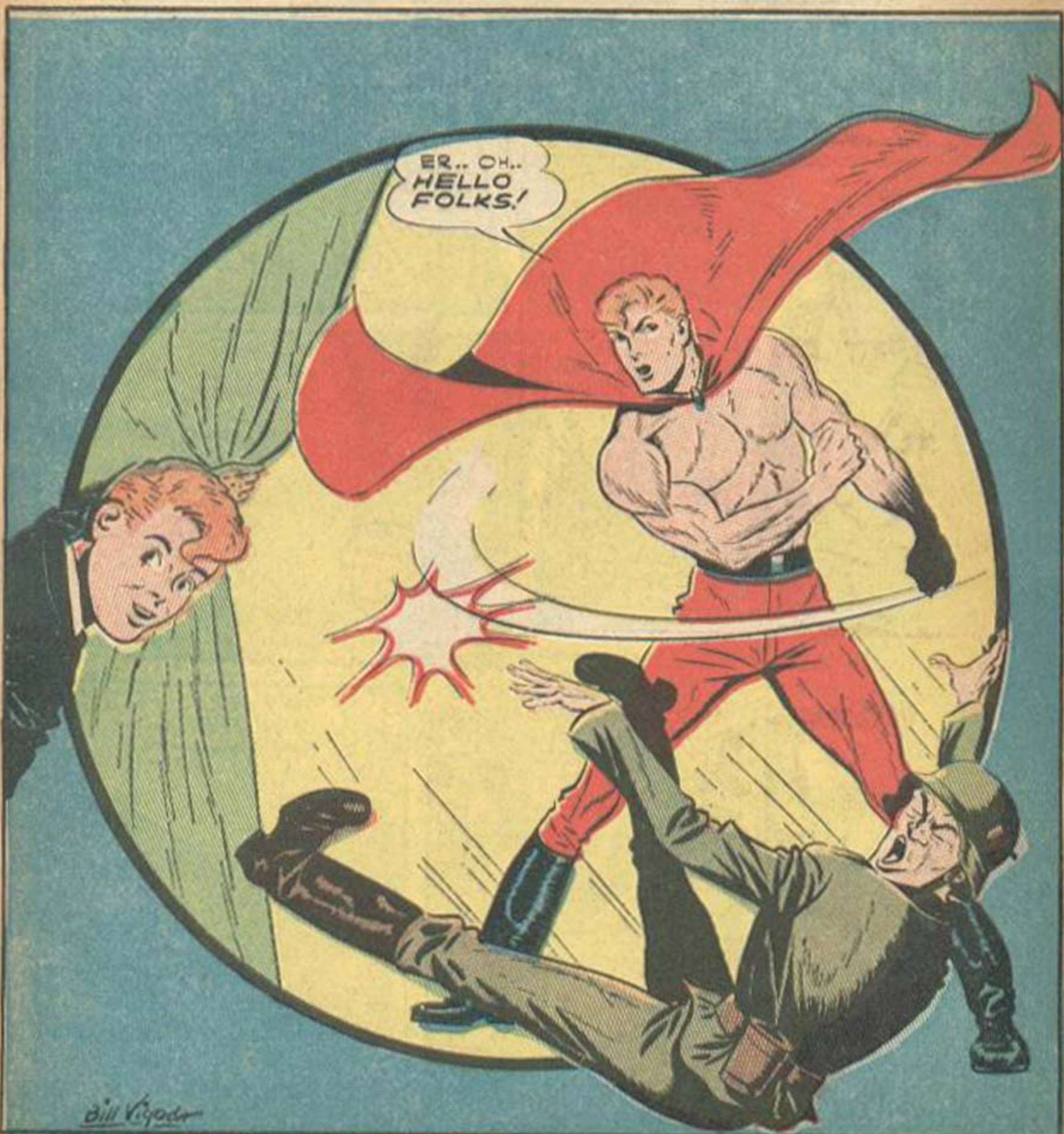
GAVE SCRAP PAPER, AND HELP WIN THE WAR--



# RED RUBE



ER.. OH..  
HELLO  
FOLKS!



Bill Vignola



RUEBEN STEPS OUT OF THE SUBWAY, ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK, WHEN...

HEY!  
WHAT'S EVERYONE  
RUNNING  
FOR?

SUDDENLY...

WHAT  
TH...!

ATTENTION! EARTHMEN!  
BE PREPARED FOR AN  
INVASION BY MARTIANS!  
ALL ATTEMPTS TO  
RESIST WILL BE  
SEVERELY PUNISHED!

AWKK! IT'S  
A M... MARTIAN!

SAY... WHAT'S  
GOING ON HERE?  
LOOK AT THAT  
GUY RUN!

WHAT A STORY!  
I'M GETTING  
BACK TO  
THE  
OFFICE!

MADE  
IT!

ACME BUS CO.

WATCH  
YOUR  
STEPS



GEE! I HOPE NO ONE ELSE HAS BROUGHT IN THE STORY!



I TELL YOU, WE'RE BEING INVADED BY MARS!

THIS GUY IS A CRACKPOT! THROW HIM OUT, JOE!



C'MON, BUDDY, OUT YOU GO!



YOU'LL REGRET THIS! WHEN AMERICA IS CONQUERED, YOU'LL COME TO ME FOR MERCY!

SAY, THIS SOUNDS SERIOUS! I'LL FOLLOW HIM, AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!



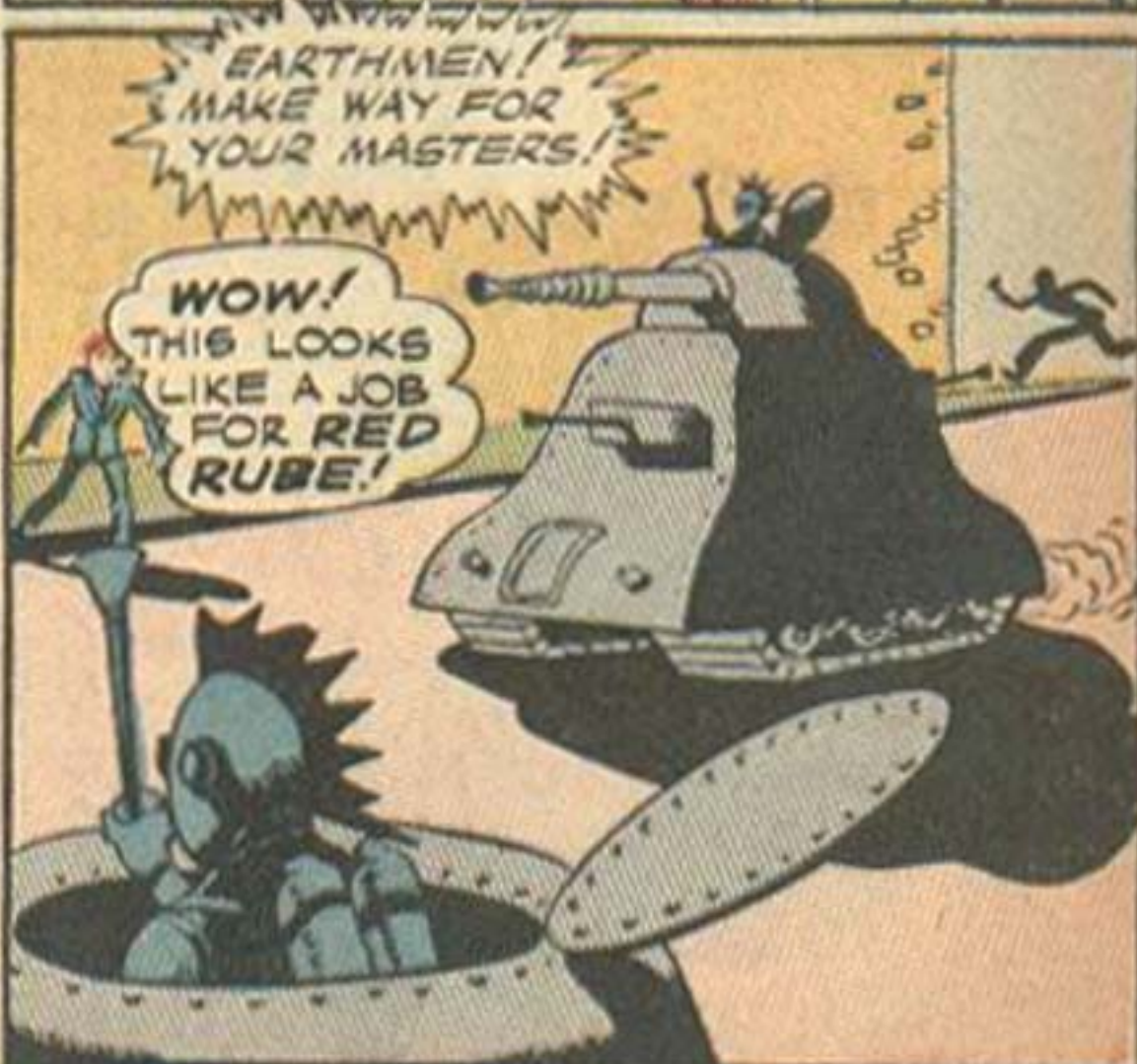
HELP! THE MARTIANS ARE HERE!

WHAT.. AGAIN?

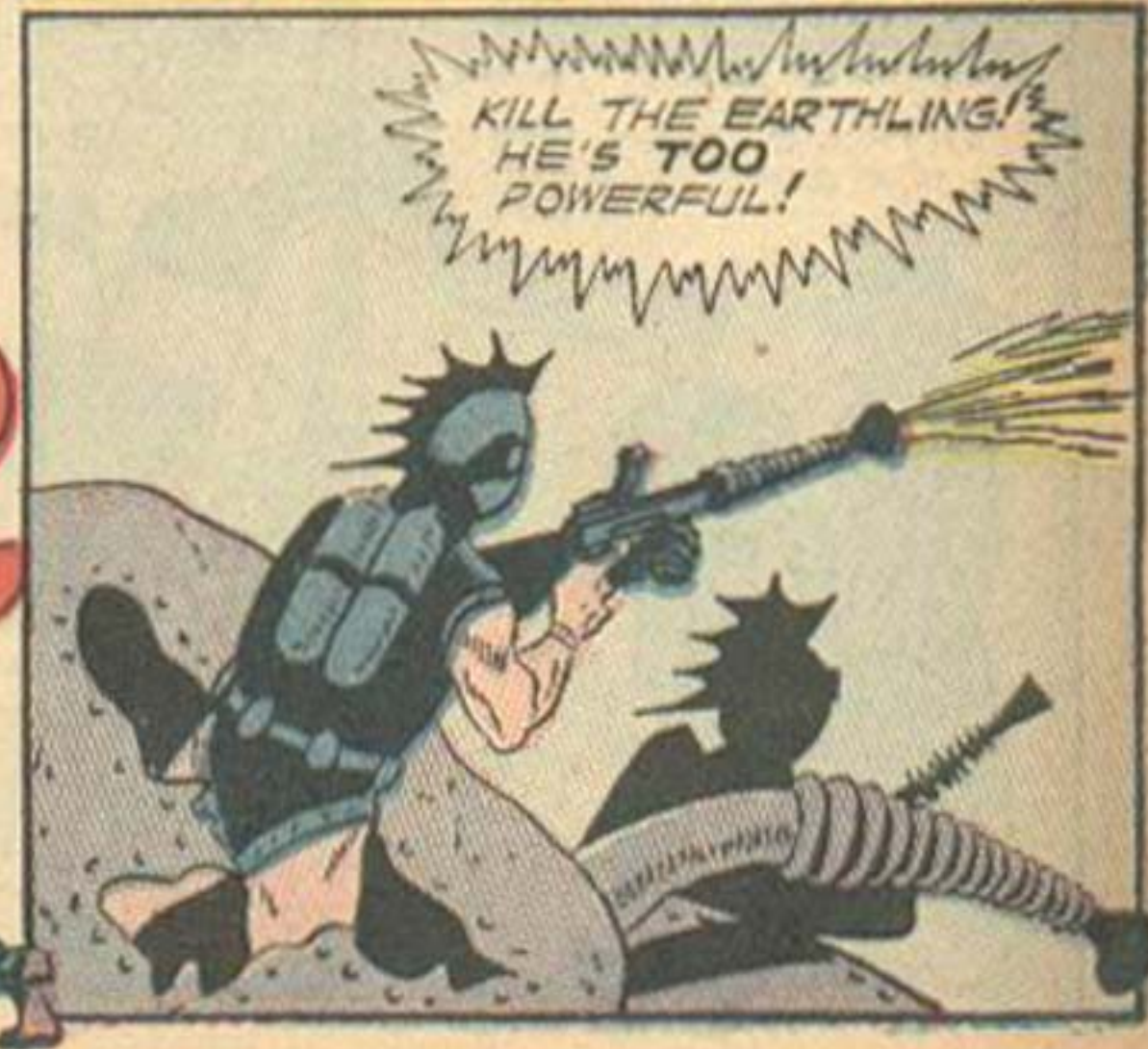
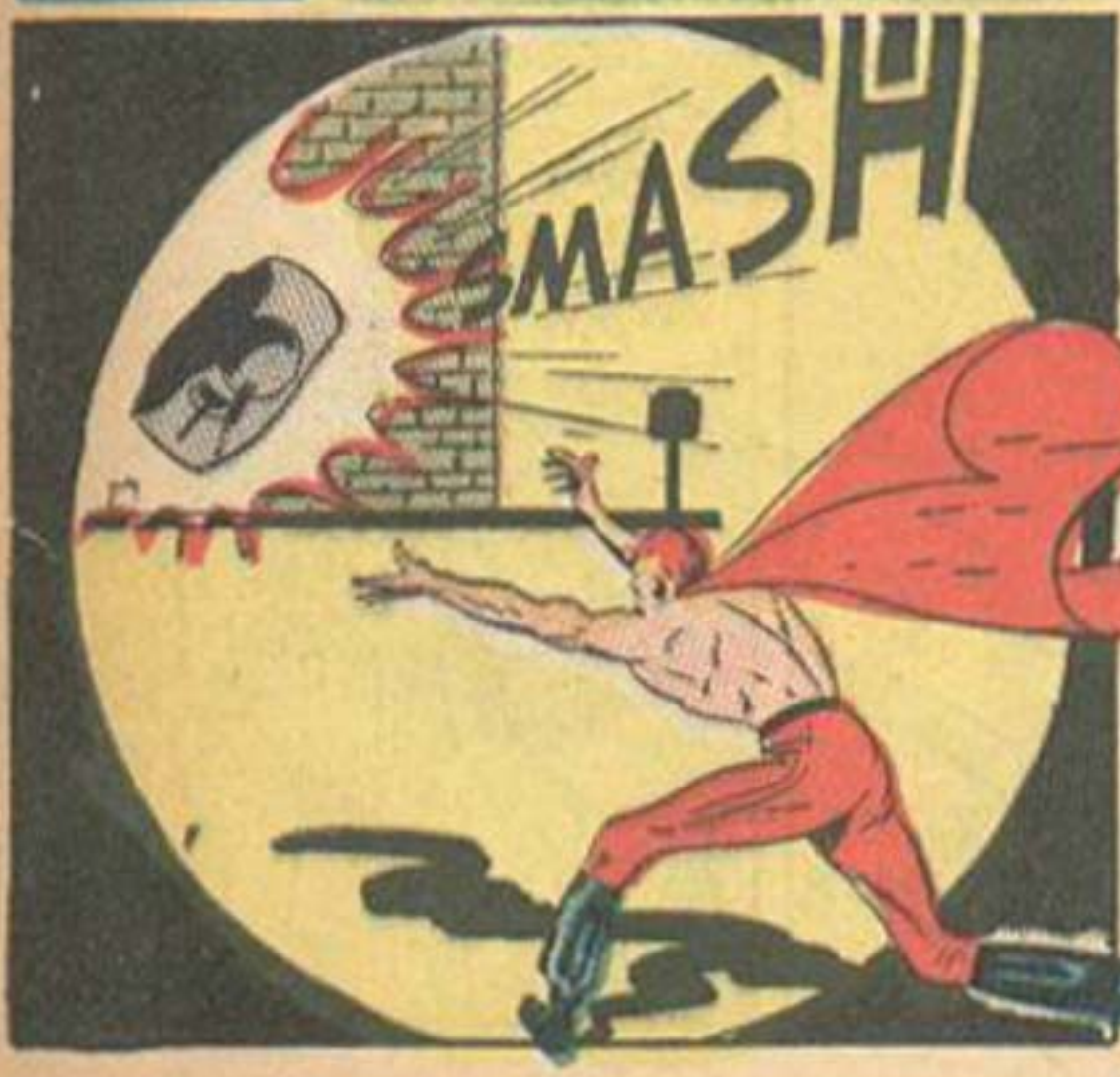
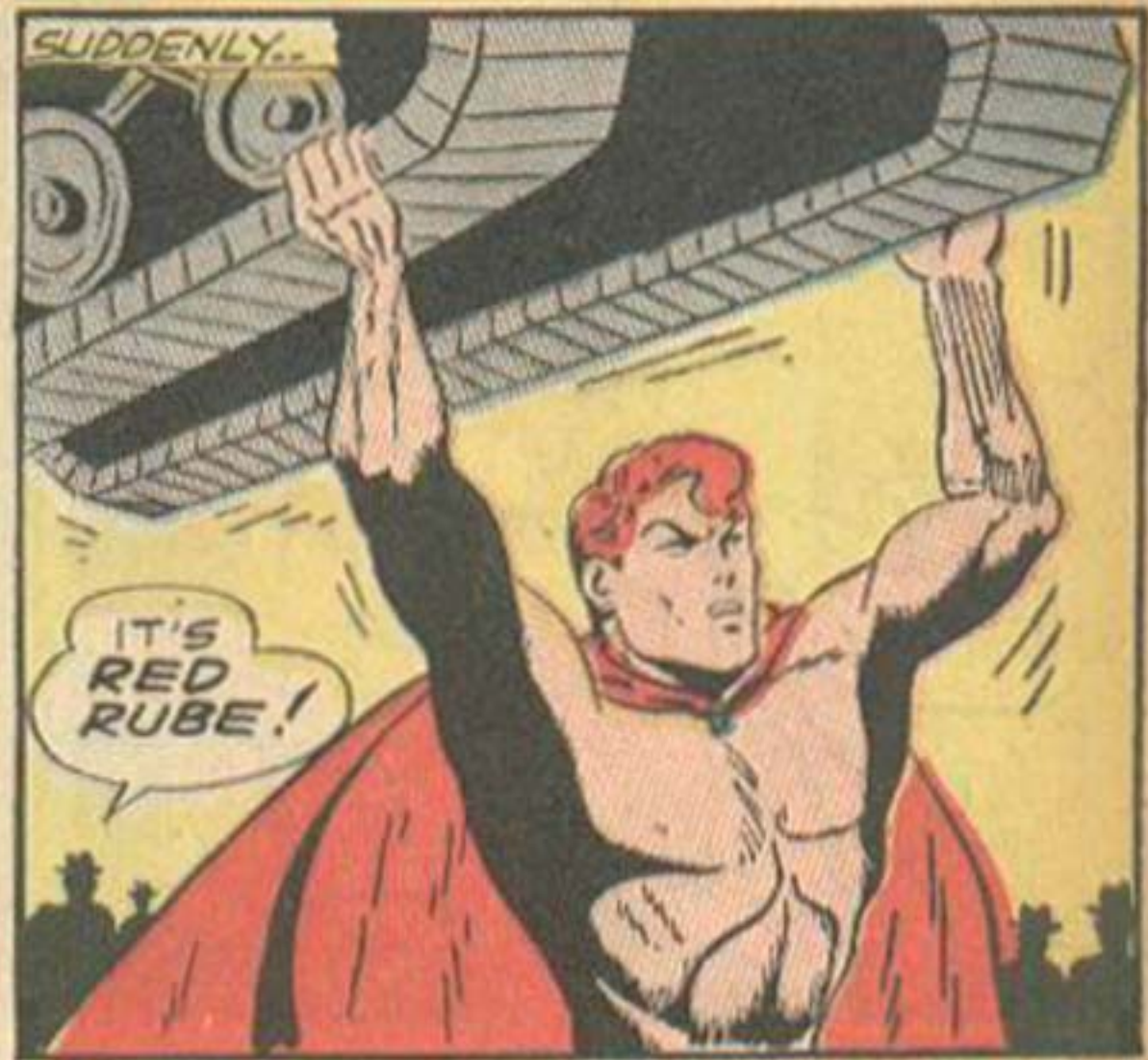
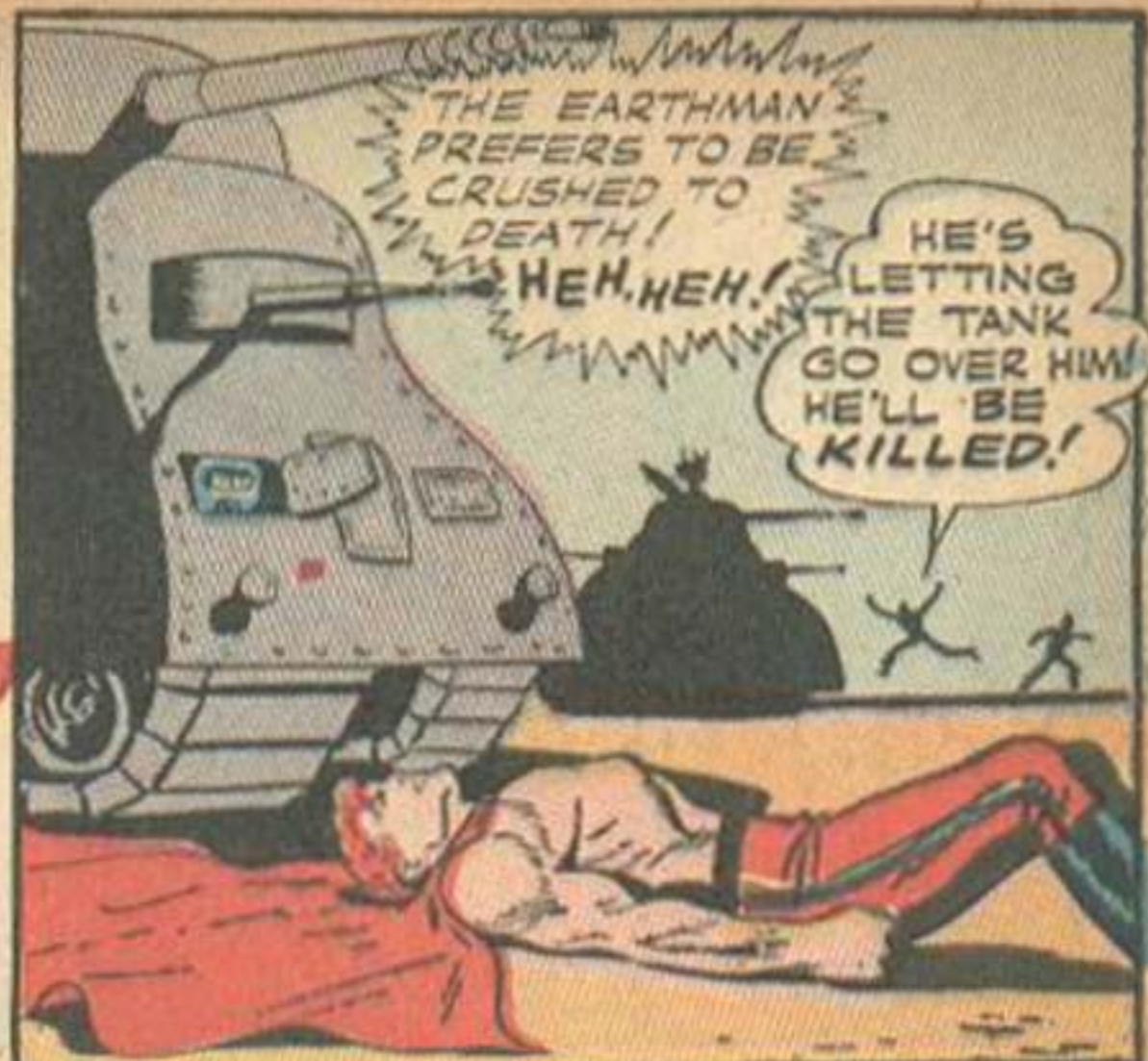


EARTHMEN! MAKE WAY FOR YOUR MASTERS!

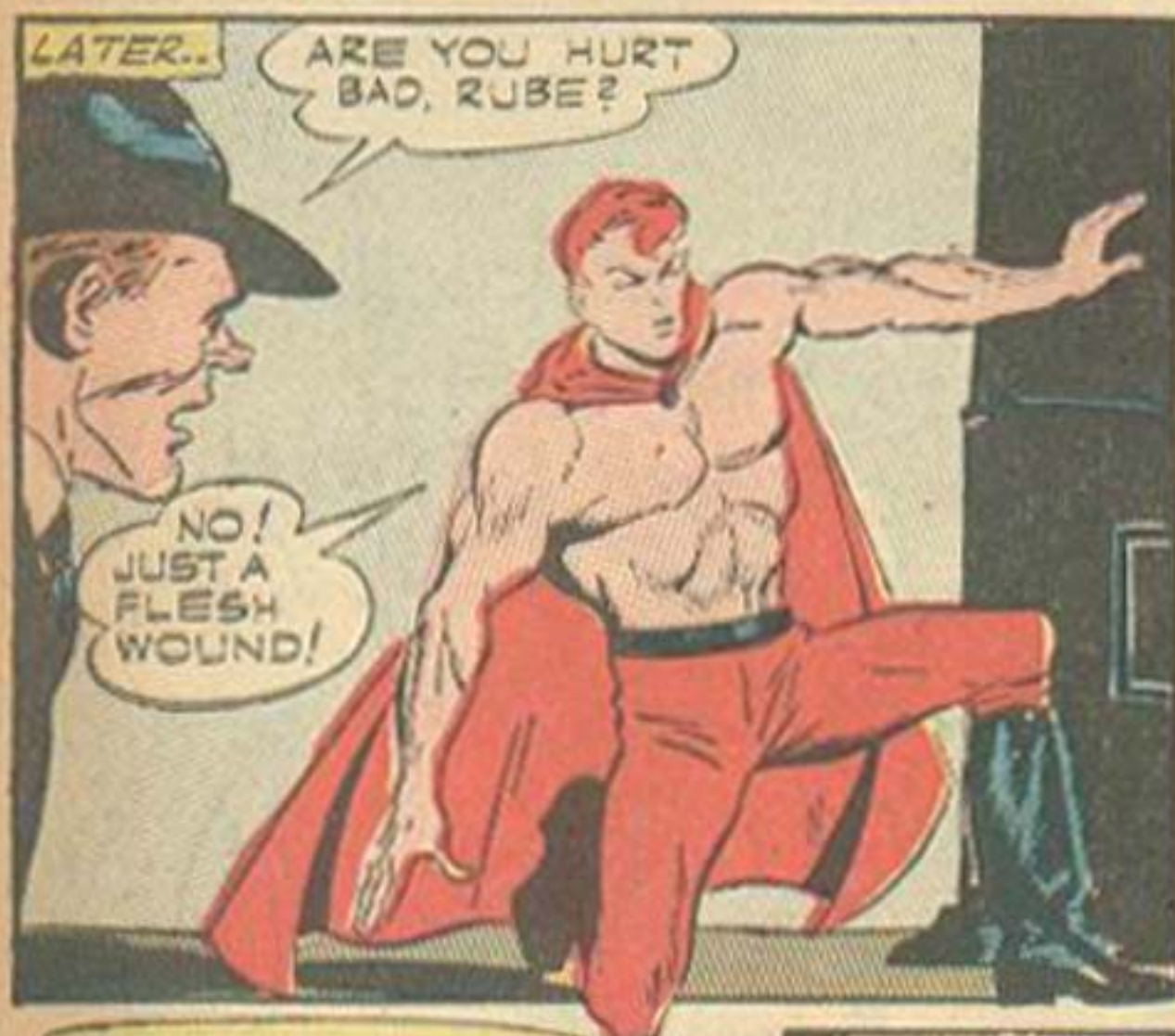
WOW! THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR RED RUBE!







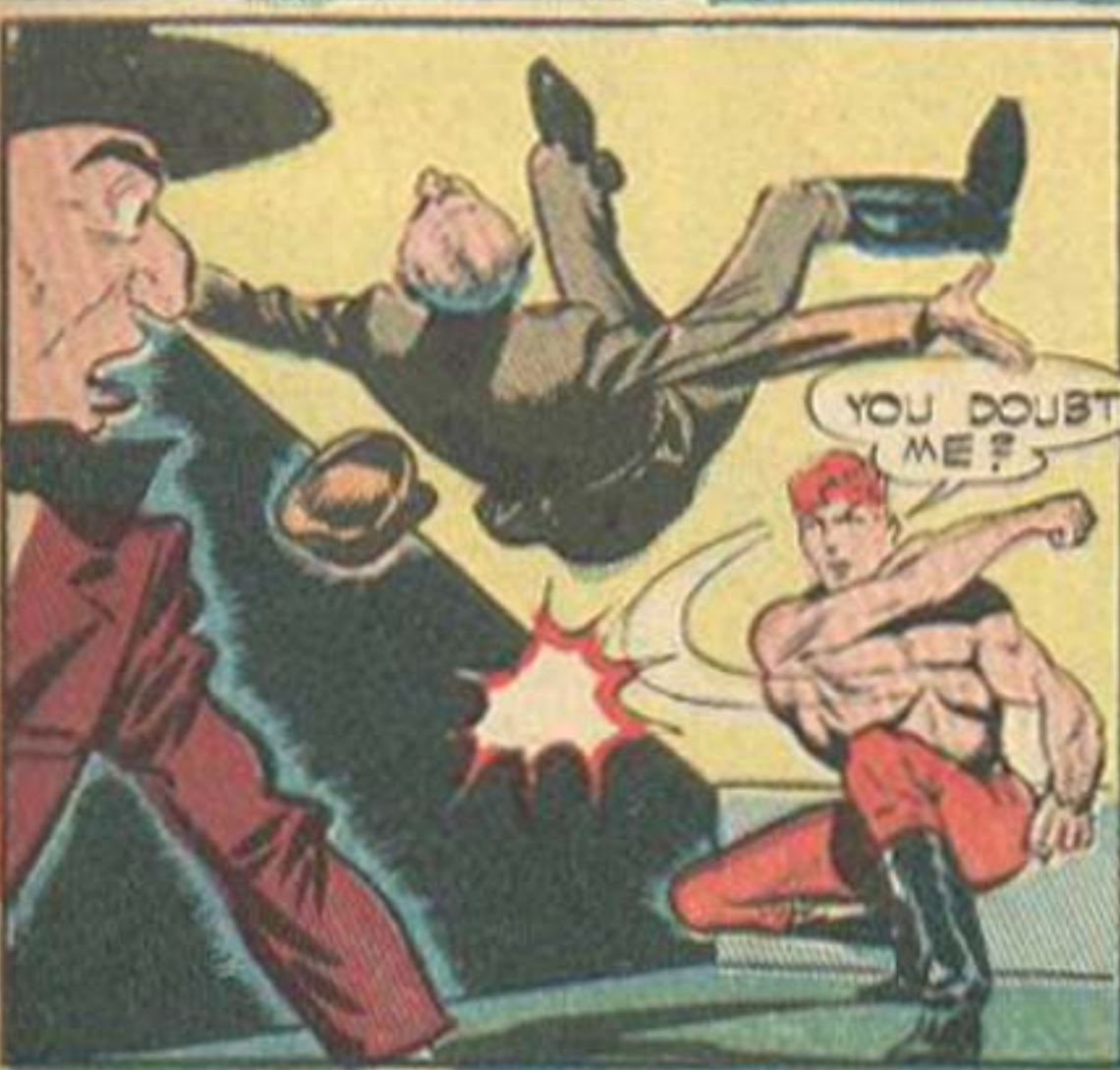














I'M GOING, BUT I'LL  
BE BACK..  
MEANWHILE, WHY  
DON'T YOU HANG  
UP YOUR  
COATS?



DARN IT! THERE  
GOES THAT  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
AGAIN! IF I COULD  
ONLY FIND ITS  
SOURCE! IT'S  
CREATING  
A PANIC!



IT SEEMS TO BE  
COMING FROM THIS  
STREET! I WONDER  
IF THOSE MAINTENANCE  
MEN COULD HELP  
ME??

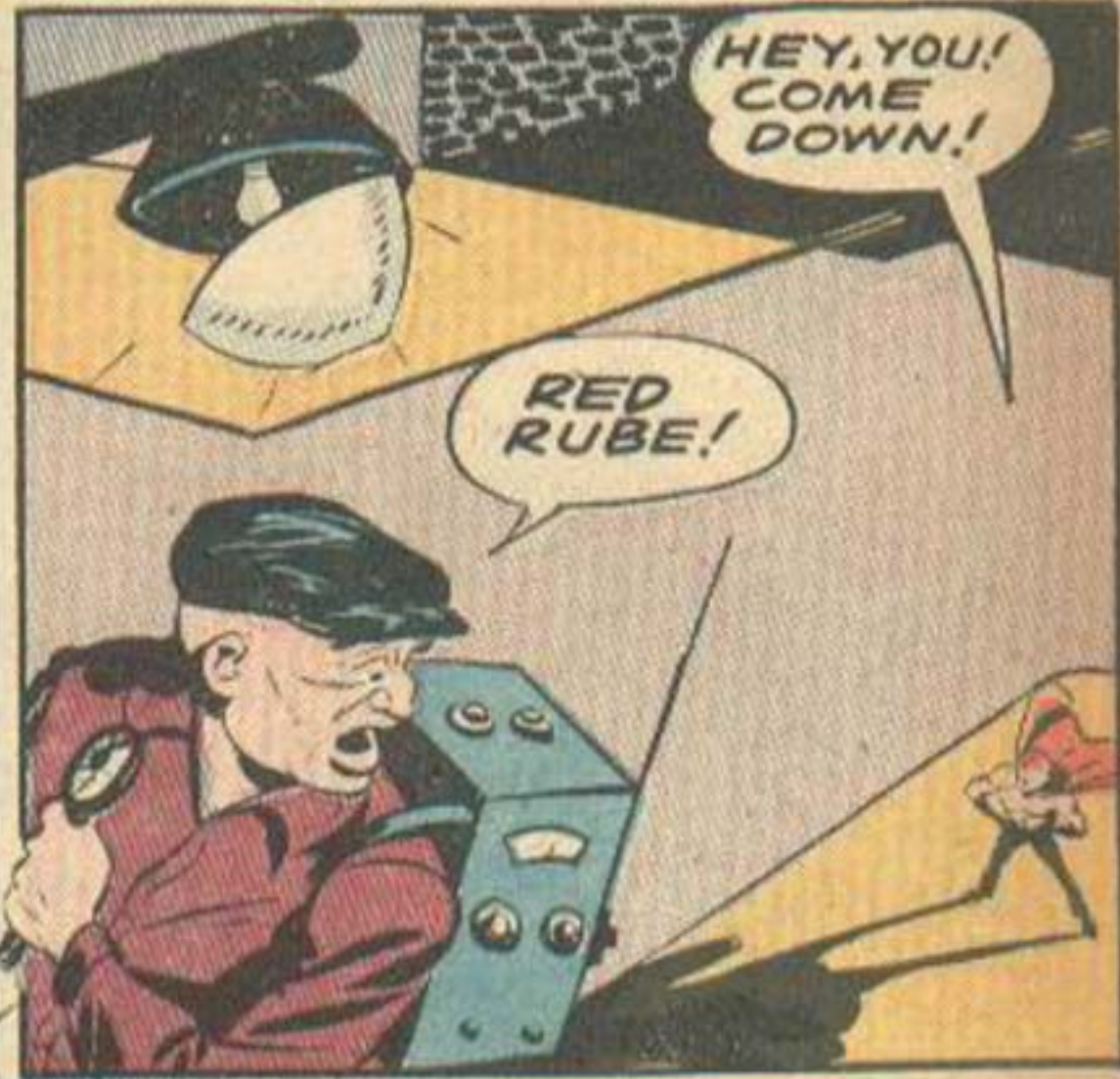


BUT WAIT!  
WHAT'S THAT ON  
HIS BACK?? HEY!  
IT'S A LOUD  
SPEAKING  
UNIT!



HEY, YOU!  
COME  
DOWN!

RED  
RUBE!



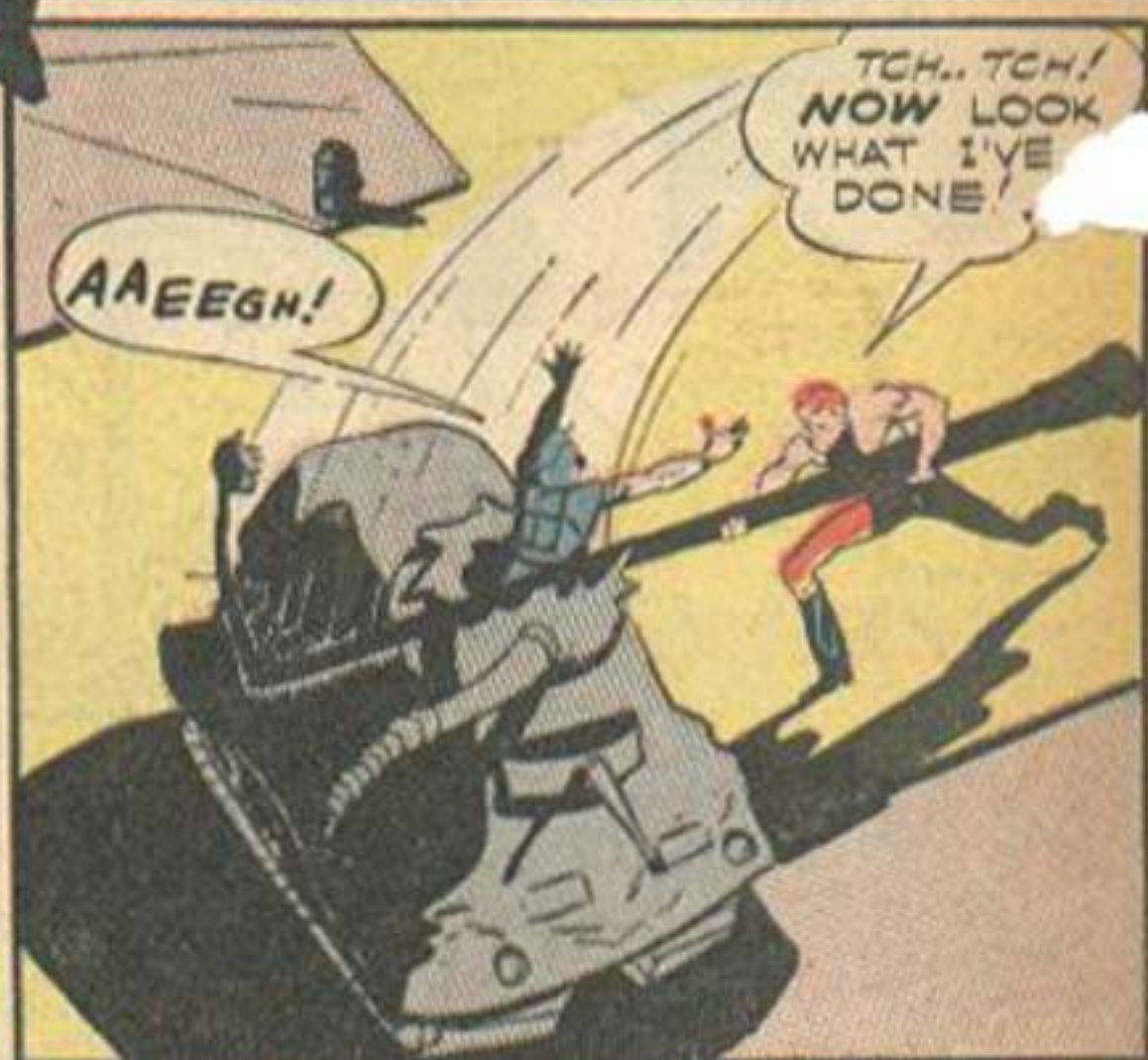
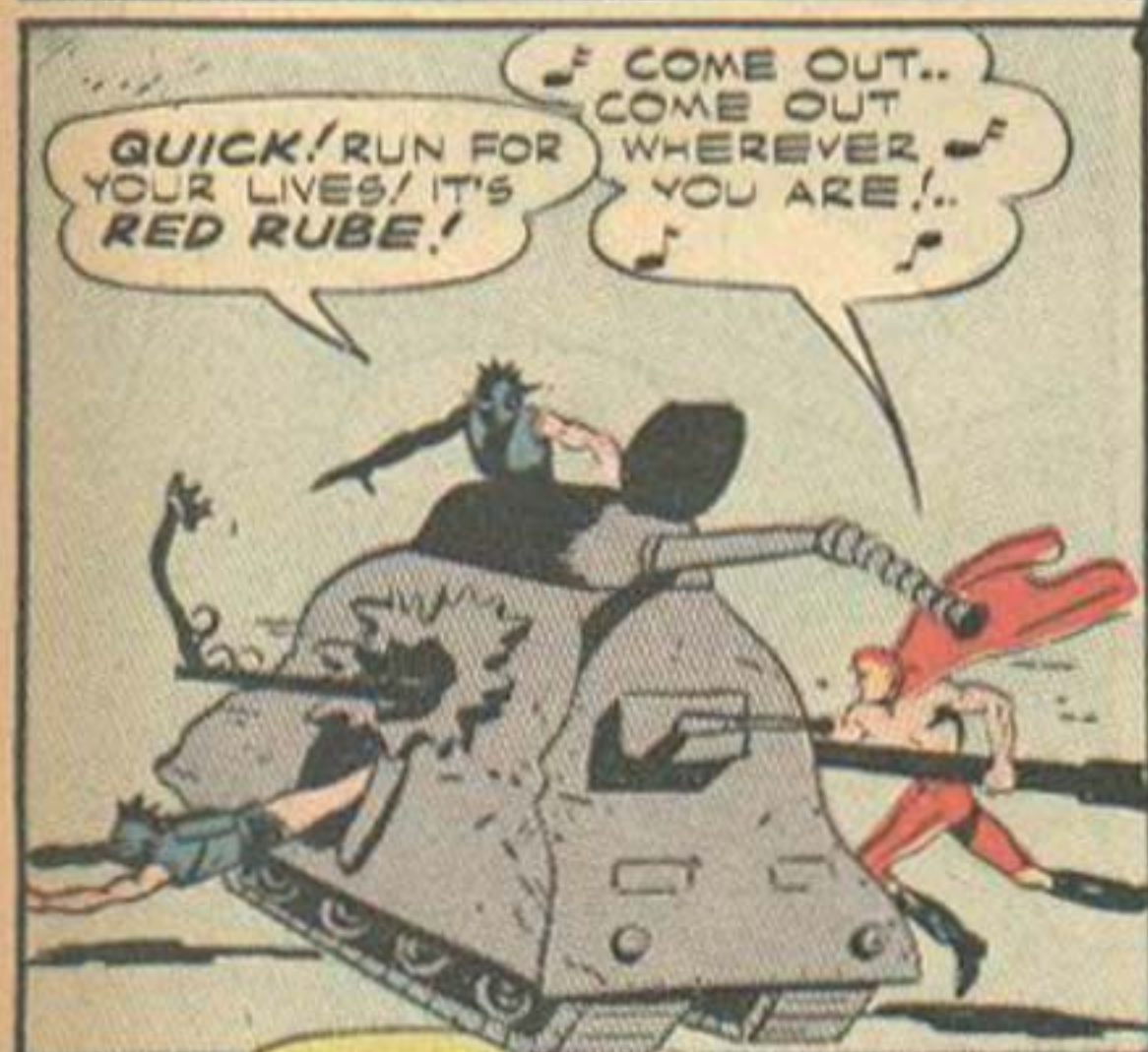
OBSTINATE, EH?  
THIS WILL  
UPSET YOUR  
EQUILIBRIUM!



RUN, YOU  
RATZIS!











THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! LET ME DOWN!

THERE THEY ARE, BOYS! ALL YOURS! READY AND WAITING!

UNHOOK THEM SERGEANT! THEY LOOK LIKE PIGS ON A HOOK!



I'LL WRITE TO DER FUEHRER! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

AW, QUIET! DER FUEHRER IS TOO BUSY WITH HIS OWN TROUBLES IN RUSSIA!

KEEP MOVING CHUMS!



I'VE GOT SOME CALLS TO MAKE, S'LONG!



OKAY, REUBEN! YOU CAN TAKE OVER FROM NOW! HEY RUBE!



HELLO...CHIEF? YEH! THIS IS REUBEN! HAVE I GOT A SCOOP FOR YOU...STRAIGHT FROM RED RUBE! ALL ABOUT THAT CRACKPOT PROFESSOR! OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!

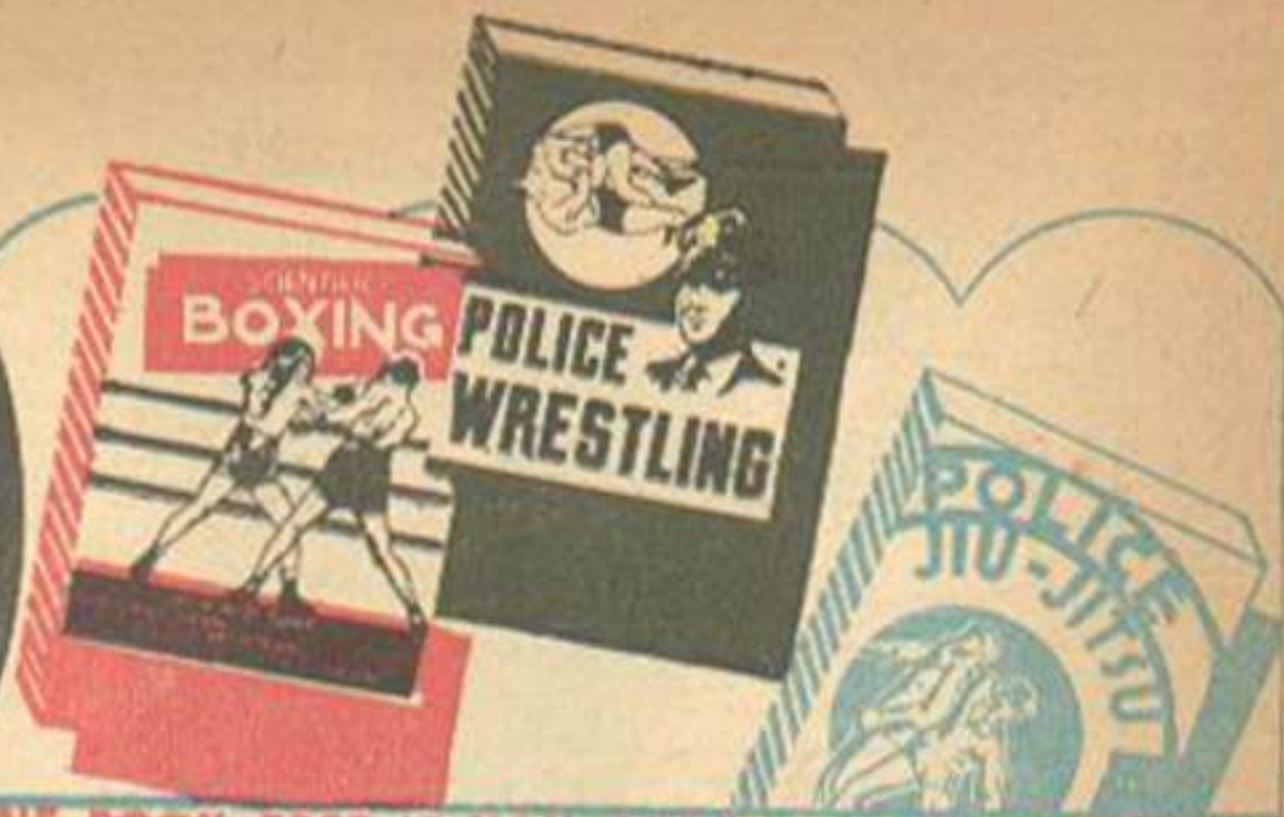


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24 NEW YORK SUN FINAL  
RED RUBE FOILS NAZI PLOT  
REUBEN REUBEN  
ACE CUB REPORTER SCOOPED EVERY PAPER



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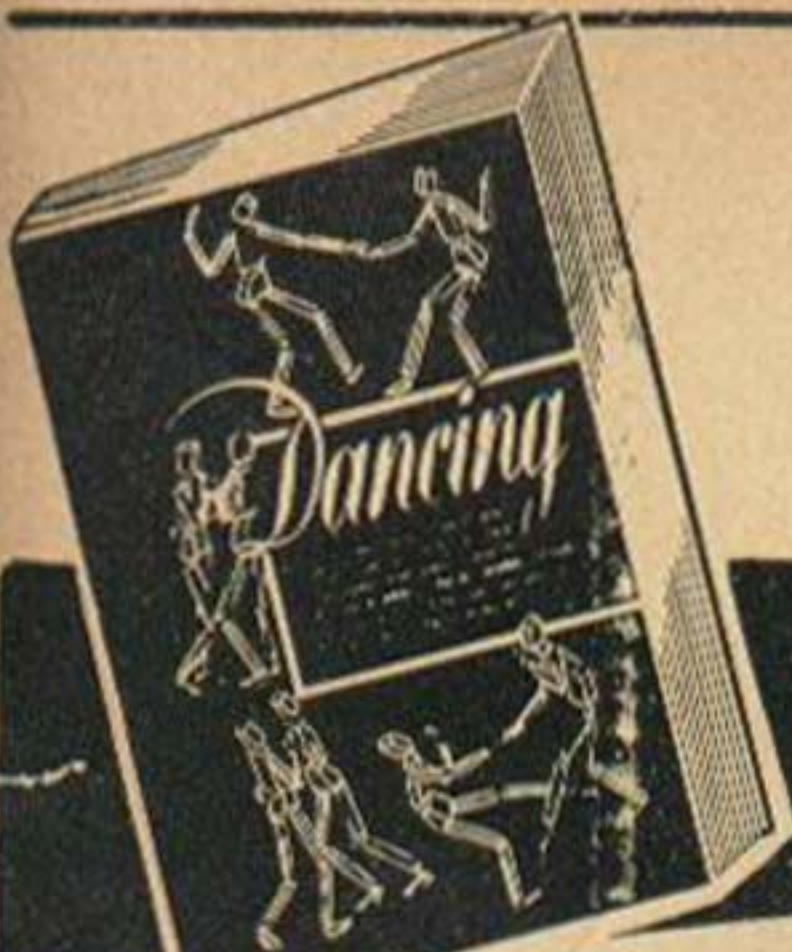
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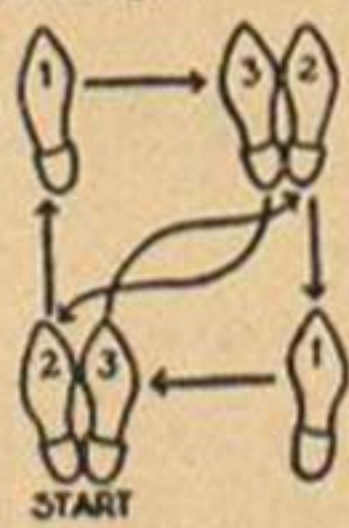
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